the latest ISSUE

volume five
issue one

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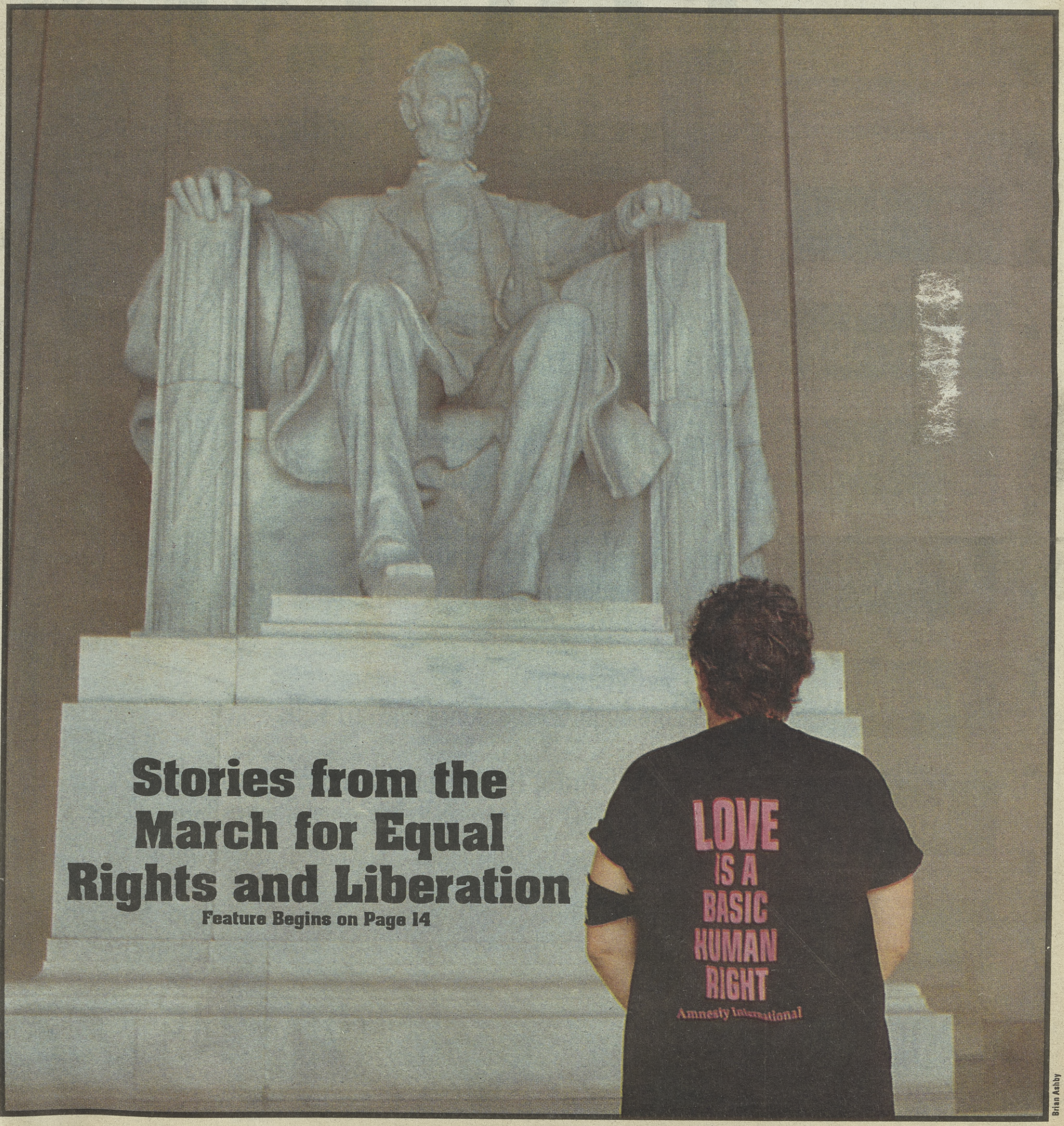
Check Out the Top Ten Lesbian and Gay Films Available on Video With Chris Narloch

See article on page 19

SACRAMENTO'S NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ITS FRIENDS



Brian Ashby

Stories from the March for Equal Rights and Liberation

Feature Begins on Page 14

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Country Western 7 - 11pm with DJ Brad
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Friday
Country Western 7 - 10pm with DJ Nick
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GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

really !!! I MUST SAY!

GI Joe, Barbie and Other Outrageousness

editorial by **Michael R. Gorman**

There were moments during the March on Washington weekend that just don't fit into any neat category for a story, but nevertheless speak eloquently of the people we are. Here are some I heard and saw.

Like the Lesbian at the military ban protest who told me about her best friend in childhood who was a boy who was "way not butch" but whose parents would only buy him GI Joe dolls. Her parents would buy her only Barbie. So she and her friend would go to the basement and switch dolls. "He'd like, you know, do the Barbie and Ken dating thing la la la and I'd have these macho GI Joe guys fighting and doing other things I won't mention. Thank you Bobby, wherever you are!"

Like the t-shirt that said, "I can't even march straight!"

Like the beautiful shirtless men hanging out a window above the march with a banner that read, "We need husbands."

Like the lesbians who were shirtless too.

Like the t-shirt I related to that said, "We're here. We're queer. We're on deadline!"

Like the sign "General Powell stay out of my Colin!"

Like the tired marchers on the Metro train after the march who began singing the theme song from the Brady Bunch and the whole train joined in singing even the orchestration parts and the harmony.

Like the spontaneous rendition of America The Beautiful by several thousand voices on the steps of the capitol.

Like the partiers lined up on the wall above the Metro escalators who teased and taunted those on the escalators.

Like the cab driver who complained that Washington will be dull when we leave.

Like the man from a small town in South Carolina who came alone and had never seen that many people in one place before and was so jazzed that they were all gay.

Like the men who gave up their cab to a young lesbian who was scared by the homophobe at the curb who kept shouting invectives.

Like the hundreds of thousands who partied at Dupont Circle but didn't start any fights.

Like the little Jewish couple in their seventies who weren't sure if they knew any gay people but came to march because "discrimination is discrimination."

Like the three men carrying empty sticks and chanting, "We're here, we're queer, and we forgot our signs!"

Like the fairies and drag queens and suits and street radicals and guppies and rich old queens and dykes and lipstick lesbians and queer punks and AIDS survivors and disabled and veterans and college boys and Euro-Americans and African Americans and Christians and Pagans and Jews and Native Americans and Latinos and a thousand other groups who spent a weekend demonstrating to the city of presidents that love and commitment and pride can overcome any barriers and make a family.

"Queer" is Offensive

Editor,

"The Year of the Queer"

To me that is as repugnant as any other equally bigotous term. It can only fuel the fire of those radicals who use it.

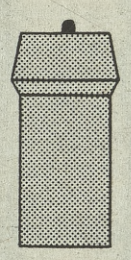
Until we can learn to respect ourselves we cannot expect any respect from others. I would be caught behind that banner only if I were dead or unconsious and had no choice in the matter.

John Eastman

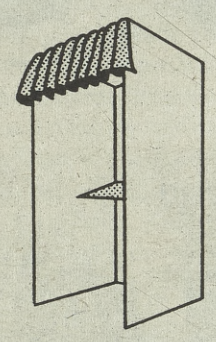
LETTERS!

The latest ISSUE welcomes letters on any subject. Be sure to include your name and phone number for verification. We will not print your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

Zeitler



BILL CLINTON'S ROLE IN THE GAY MARCH ON WASHINGTON, APRIL 1993.



GAY PEOPLE'S ROLE IN THE RE-ELECTION OF BILL CLINTON, NOVEMBER 1996.

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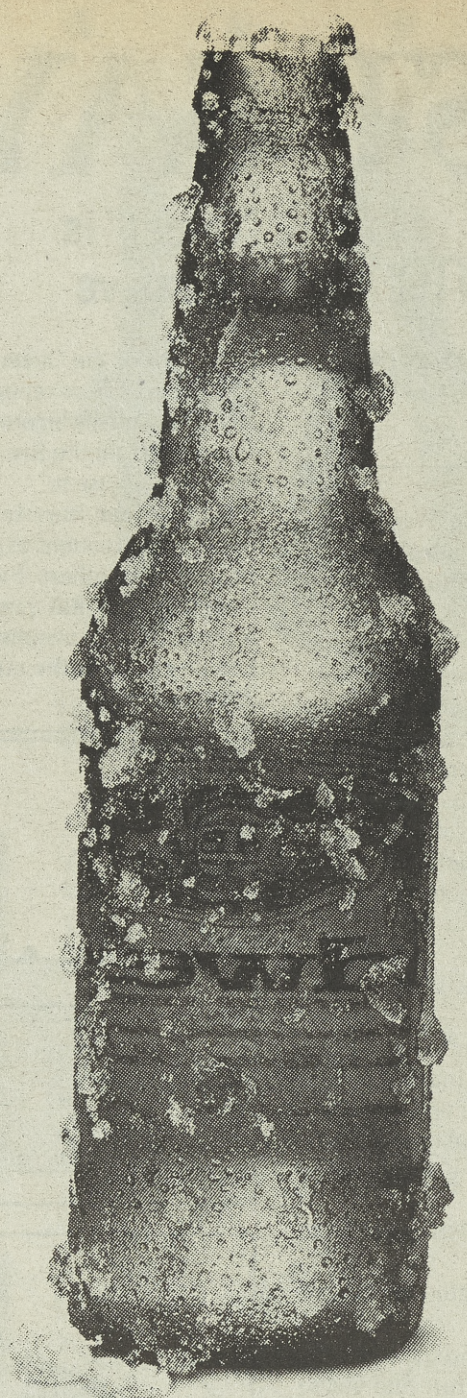

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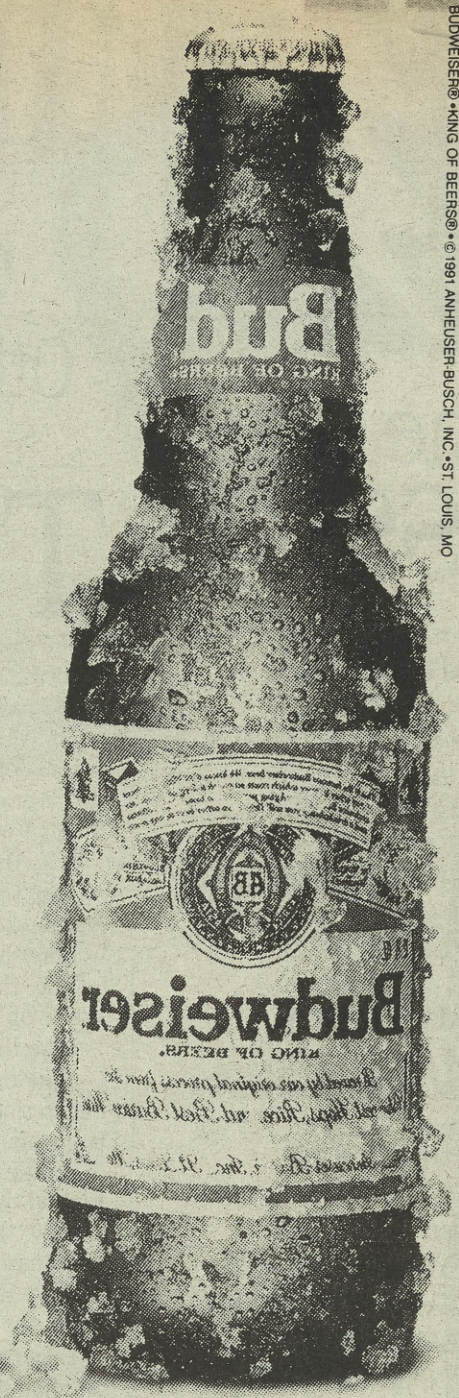

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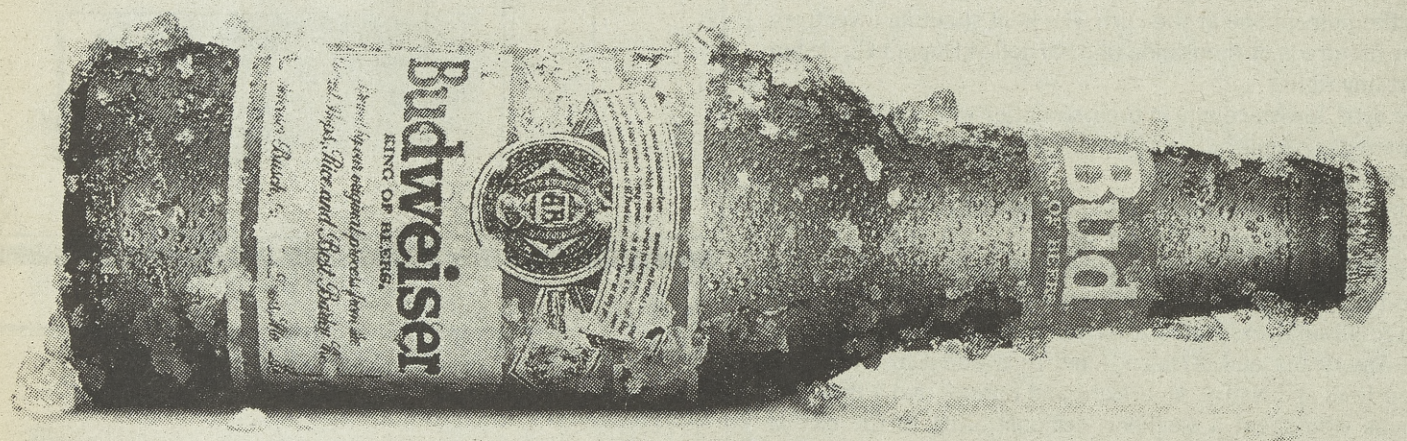

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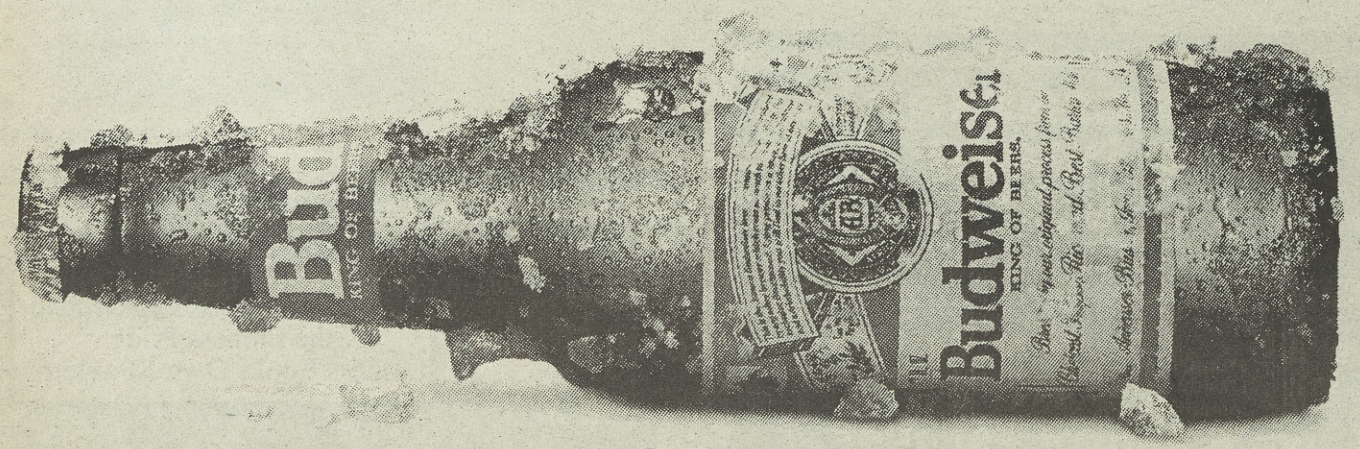

Left Side.

Bottom.

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AROUND TOWN

Hundreds Turn Out For March on the Capitol

by **Samir Desai**

Nearly 1 million people took part in the March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay and Bi Rights and Liberation April 25 while here in Sacramento more than 600 participated in a march to the Capitol.

Pride and unity was the theme of the day as participants held their signs and posters high into the air nearly touching the trees. The mood was one were people felt happy, accepted and high in spirits. Couples held their hands as they marched and chanted "We want equal rights, NOW."

I asked a couple, Jeff and Fames, who participated in this march, the reason why they had decided to show up, "If every face that showed up and the ones who decided not to show up, told their entire family and friends that they are gay, then everyone would know at least one gay person. People with voices can make a difference."

Similar emotion was evident throughout the march and was easily revealed in the speakers' voices, as they took the podium. One speaker, James Valdez, a student from the University of California at Davis and an active member of Delta Lambda Phi fraternity at Davis, urged people and students to come out.

His view stood out from the rest, because his older brother had already come out to their family and friends before James did; thus his older brother served as a role model. He stressed the importance of coming out to our family and friends, not only for ouselves but for people who look up to us as role models.

As speakers took the podium, people cheered at appropriate times and at other times listened to them with acute attention. Away from the crowd, standing underneath the redwood tree in the capitol lawn was a gentleman, Mike Seruggts, a straight man from the armed forces; who was there to show his support. He said, "There is no difference between a gay man and a straight man, except for the way the two men fall in love. In the forces I have worked with gay men, and they are just like ordinary people. They deserve to be in the military not only because they deserve the same rights as we heterosexuals do, but because they are good people and sometimes even better than the rest. I strongly support President Clinton's view on lifting the ban."

Mr. Seruggts also said that homophobia exists because people are ignorant and are not educated on this subject matter. he said, "Lots of people who are not here call names such as 'homos,' don't know what they are saying, and marches like this one and the one in D.C. might help some people. It is important to make your voices heard."

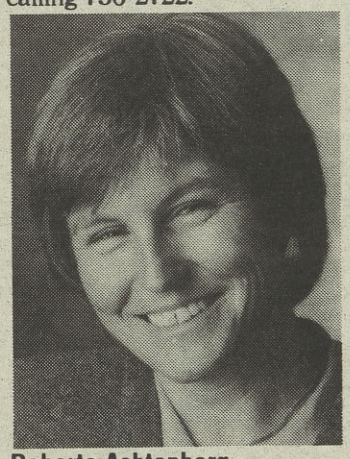
Achtenberg, Mixner at CAP/PAC Dinner

The California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC) announced that San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg and political activist David Mixner will be the keynote speakers at the organization's annual fundraising dinner June 5 at the Radisson Hotel.

David Mixner.

"We are thrilled to have these two prominent members of the gay and lesbian community addressing the dinner this year," commented Cathi Meyers, Chair of the dinner committee. "Both Roberta and David played key roles in the Clinton Campaign and will continue to be significant players in the Clinton Administration."

More than 500 persons are expected to turn out for the dinner, including many elected officials. CAP/PAC is Sacramento's bi-partisan, lesbian and gay political action committee. The organization supports the election of public officials who support gay and lesbian issues. Tickets for the June 5 dinner are $75 a person and can be ordered by calling 736-2722.



Roberta Achtenberg.

State AIDS Funding Crisis

In what is viewed by many AIDS advocates as a "wake-up call," normally staunch advocates for people with HIV/AIDS on May 3 passed a preliminary budget package in a State Senate subcommittee that would totally eliminate all AIDS care, treatment and education and prevention programs in California.

Senators Mike Thompson (D-Eureka) and Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles) brought the successful proposal to the Subcommittee on Health, Human Services and Labor, which Thompson chairs. The proposal is seen by some Capitol insiders as a "worst case scenario" and a risky move to force the Legislature to approve continuing a half cent sales tax to fund state health and social programs facing the budget axe. However, the committee's action could conceivably culminate in a watered-down version of the proposal, and would likely result in the loss of $17.2 million in federal matching funds, as well as gutting existing AIDS programs.

The action occurred without advance notice to AIDS advocates, who normally receive "courtesy calls" in advance of committee actions.

LIFE Lobby's Robert Rios questioned the senators' motivations for floating such an extreme proposal, by commenting, "If they wanted to light a fire under the HIV community, they shouldn't have done it with a blowtorch."

Actions to combat the proposal are underway, including a high profile AIDS Budget Lobby Day at the Capitol on May 10.

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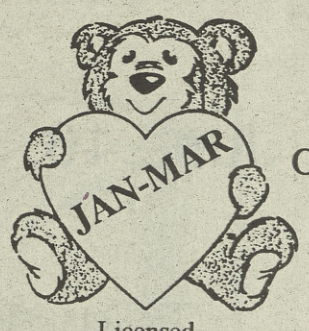

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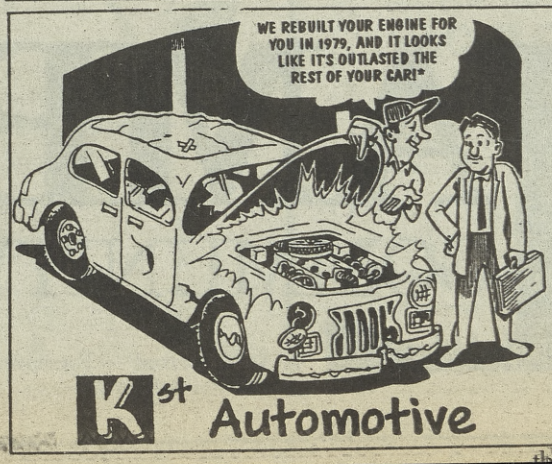

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Farewell to Long Time Gay Rights and AIDS Activist

Everette Denman, long time gay rights and AIDS activist died May 5 after a long battle with AIDS.

During his short life, he worked to increase awareness of the disease that finally ended his time here on earth.

He demanded action from elected leaders, from the gay rights establishment, from others who believed as he did, and from himself he demanded nothing less than all he could give.

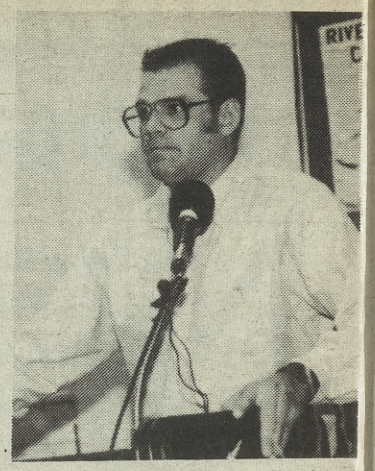
Denman founded the Sacramento chapter of ACTUP after he tested HIV positive. I remember him saying "If I am going to die from this disease than everyone in earshot is going to listen to me scream."

And scream he did.

He was a integral part in the success of the 1988 March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights - the largest demonstration in the history of the state capitol.

He organized the "Hyatt Riot" demonstration in March of 1990 that broke into the meeting room of the Traditional Values Coalition and scared the pants off Lou Sheldon.

Denman moved to San Francisco in 1991 to be with his life-partner and soul mate Evan Dearfield. Together they worked to mobilize the city into action,



demonstration and change.

This man will be sorely missed by his family, his friends and by all with HIV and AIDS, for he spoke for them.

A memorial will be held May 8 at the couple's home. Memorial donations are requested to go to the National Gay and Lesbian Rights Task Force.

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WHYS

by Suz "Kelley" Jones

Why was it important for you to be in D.C.?

Ron Knott
Thommy Mesa

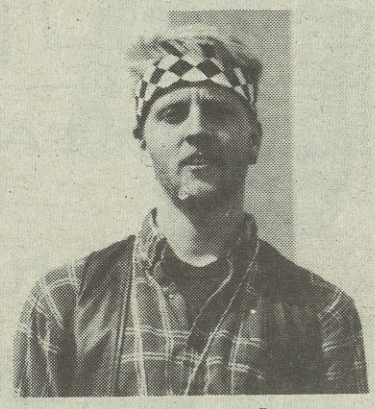
"Because we're in love and wanted to get married. We just needed to be here with a million fags and lesbians. We will no longer be second class citizens."

Edy Sallee

"Because it's my fucking civil rights!!"

Jennifer Boyd

"To show the world that we are a diverse community and that each and every one of us is the face of queer America."



Mark D. Roach

"Politics has always been unimportant to me, but now that my friends and my family are in jeopardy of losing our rights I needed to be here. We all have the right to love."

Eve & Patti Mosslinger

"We're here to stand up for our rights. As a couple we should have the same rights as heterosexuals. We want to be a legal family."

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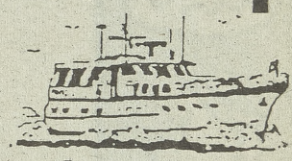

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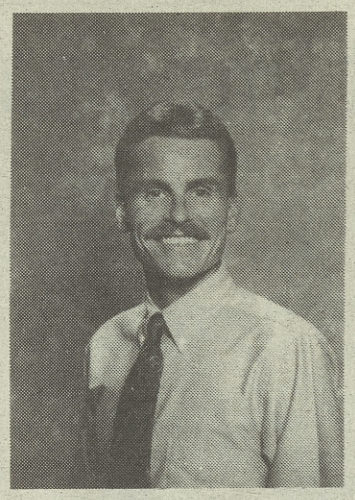
Obituary

Ronnie Howard Gasson

1964 -1993



And still one bright glowing light dimmed briefly on Thursday morning March 18 when Ronnie Gasson passed from this life into one of peace and great joy. He was 28 years of age.

Ronnie was born on June 26, 1964, in Woodland. He graduated from Woodland High School where he was very active in theatre. Later he became involved with the local productions with P.A.A.R.C.

His other interests were bowling, where he had been a member of River City Sunday mixed team for the past five years. He enjoyed country music and loved to dance.

Ronnie is survived by his dear friend and partners in life, Jim Green of Sacramento. His parents, Robert and Kay Gasson of Woodland, a sister Linda Gasson of Henderson, Nevada; his grandmother, Katherine Gasson of Woodland; and uncle and aunt Lowell and Hollie Alger of Davis; and numerous great aunts' cousins and many many gay friends.

He will be remembered for his love of life, concern for those less fortunate and his humor, which he maintained until the end.

We will always remember his hearty laughter and the pleasure that he brought into the lives of all who knew him. "He who lives in the hearts of friends, will never die."

To the friends of Ronnie Gasson: Jim Green and the family of Ronnie Gasson would like to express their gratitude for the love and support given Ronnie during his illness. He spoke many times of the wonderful friends he had. God bless each and every one of you.

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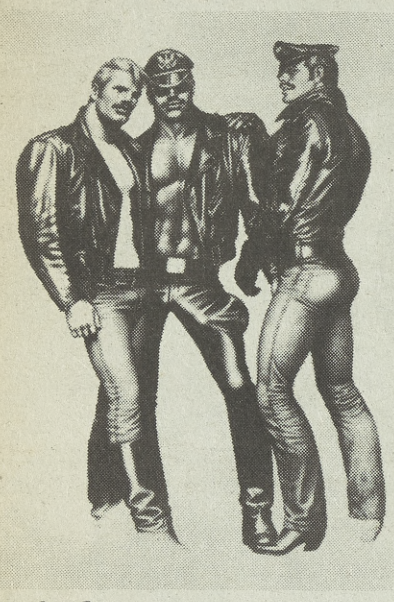

7 friday

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Rupert Loydell, abstract oils on canvas at Gallery W. Call 444-5125 for information.
May 7 - June 6

Ceramic artifact wall sculpture by Carol Attoe displayed at New Helvetia Coffee Roasters, 1215 19th Street, Sacramento, CA. **May 7 - 31**

Dos Fallopia & Monica Grant perform at the Church of Religious Science at 14 Hilary Lane, Chico. Call 345-8213 for information.

Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra presents the Pops Concert, "Down on the Farm." Call 442-4135 for information.
May 7 - 8

The Davis Musical Theatre Company presents "Pajama Game" at the Varsity Theatre, 616 Second Street, Davis. Call 756-3682 for information.
May 7 -23

Matrix Gallery presents the work of Janice Nakashima and Rachel Gaspers at 1725 I Street, Sacramento. Call 441-4818 for information.

Margie Adam, pianist, singer, and songwriter performs at 8 p.m. at the Oakland Museum, James Moore Theatre. Call 927-7628 for information.

8 saturday

2nd Annual Prom With Pride from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Sac. City College Student Center 3835 Freeport Boulevard. Call 394 3114 or 558-2227 for information.

Black Party II presented by the SLA at the Wreck Room, 2513 Broadway.

10 monday

Manhattan Tap performs at 8 p.m. in Freeborn Hall at UC Davis. For information call 757-3481.

11 tuesday

Peace Corps Community Forum & Film Show from 7 - 9 p.m. at Newman Center, 5900 Newman Court, Sacramento. Call 1 (800) 292-2461 for information.

The Artist Showcase at Plaza Park on 10th & I Street from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Call 264-5558 for information.

12 wednesday

Pauli Hakensen & David White display their work at Big Art. Call 446-2740 for information. **May 12 - June 10**

13 thursday

Benefit concert for "Capital AIDS Walk '93" at the Cattle Club, 7042 Folsom Blvd. Call 922-7900 for information.

14 friday

Scratch A Rising Star Murder mystery dinner theater at Garbeau's Too in Old Sacramento. Call 985-6361 for information. **May 14 - June 19**

Looking Out/ Looking Over a conference on Lesbian and Gay Male Film at Buehler Alumni/ Visitors Center UC Davis. Call 752-8246. **May 14 & 15**

Desert Leather Fest '93 held in Palm Springs. Call (415) 364-1915 for information.

15 saturday

1st Sacramento Dyke Daddy Contest presented by the Sacramento Leather Association. Call 863-3398 for more details.

16 sunday

Lambda Letters Project Auction held at 3 p.m. Call 421-6009 for information.

The Town House's 4th Anniversary Party, 5 p.m. 1517 21st Street, Sacramento. For details call 441-5122.

Tchaikovsky Festival presented by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra at the Community Center Theater. Call 442-4135 for information.

21 friday

Female Misbehavior a movie about a lesbian drawn into S&M plays at Tower Theatre, 16th & Broadway. Call 443-1982 for information.
May 21, 22, 28, 29

Bay Area Regional Gay Rodeo, at the Cow Palace in San Franciso. Call (415) 985-5209 for more info.

Sex Is..., premieres at the Castro Theatre. Call (415) 703-8650 for information.

22 saturday

First Annual Women in Music Festival held at Mckinley Park from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 443-0787 for information.

Frameline's 48 hour Lesbian & Gay Drive-In at the Roxie Cinema, Valencia & 16th, San Francisco. Call (415) 703-8650 for information.

23 sunday

The latest ISSUE 4th Anniversary Party, at FACES, 2000 K Street, 1 - 5 p.m. Tea Dance. $5 donation to benefit the Lambda Center and the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

10th Annual International AIDS Candelight Memorial and Mobilization For more information call (415) 863-4676. For info on the local memorial call 442-0185.

June

Judy Fjell, the Sacramento Women's Chorus, and Mimi Freed perform at Palms Playhouse at 2 p.m. to benefit Northup family. Call 666-1793.

26 wednesday

Faces Memorial Weekend Beach Bash, Kick-Off Party, Ladies Night with Jo and Patti.

28 friday

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee XX begins at 11:45 a.m. in Old Sacramento. Call 372-5277 for information. **May 28 -31**

Randy Riggs in the tent at FACES for the Memorial Weekend Bash.

29 saturday

Live Rock Concert featuring Amos & Andy at Faces to benefit the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. Sponsored by 99.9 FM and Budweiser. 2 p.m.

High Energy DIVAS at Faces for the Memorial Weekend Bash, 11 p.m. in the tent.

30 sunday

MegaMix DIVA Show at Faces, 8 p.m.

4 friday

Together Alone a movie about 2 gay men who discuss various issues plays at Tower Theatre, 16th & Broadway. Call 443-1982. **June 4, 5, 11, 12**

5 saturday

CAPPAC Dinner, with keynote speakers Roberta Achtenberg and David Mixner at the Radisson Hotel 6 p.m. $75 per person. For more information call 736-2722.

Midtown Street Fair Celebration and Doo Dah Parade takes place along Capitol Avenue from 18th to 28th Streets from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 448-9881 for information.

6 sunday

Capital AIDS Walk to benefit Sacramento AIDS Foundation. Call 448-2437 for information.

13 sunday

Fresno Lesbian & Gay Pride Festival at Olive & Fulton in Fresno.Call 485-5333 for information.

16 wednesday

Lambda Awards Dinner at the SAR Auditorium, 2003 Howe Ave. 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $25. Contact the Lambda Center for more info.

18 friday

Flaming Ears a movie about lesbian go-go dancers plays at Tower Theatre, 16th & Broadway. Call 443-1982 for information. **June 18, 19, 25, 26**

17th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival presents "She's Safe". Call Frameline at (415) 703-8650 for information. **June 18 - 27**

19 saturday

Lambda Freedom Fair in McKinley Park. For more info call the Lambda Community Center at 442-0185.

26 saturday

Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration takes place at West Hollywood Park. Call (213) 848-2376 for information.

June 26 - 27

27 sunday

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade. For information call (415) 864-FREE.

28 monday

Living with Love and HIV, a workshop dealing with the feelings around loving someone positive from 7-9 p.m. at 920 20th St., Sacramento. Call 448-2437 for information.

MONDAYS

Survivors of Sexual Abuse women's group from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. every other Monday, also Tuesday nights. Call 783-0579 for information.

Twin Spirits Veterans meets 3rd Monday of the month.
Call 383-0940 for information.

Worried Well Support Group, for HIV negative people effected by HIV Positive loved ones. 1st and 3rd Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Call 448-2437 for details.

Domestic Violence, a drop-in support group for men and women at the Lambda Community Center 7 - 8:30 p.m. Call 442-0185 for information.

Men's Coming Out Group at the Lambda Center, 1931 L Street. Call 442-0185 for details.

Lesbian and Gay Town Council, 2nd Monday of each month. Call 448-0422 for info.

TUESDAYS

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Union at American River College meets from 5-6 p.m. in Rm. D113.

Being Gay Today, 10 p.m. on cable 18. A hour of lesbian and gay programming.

Heart to Heart, a HIV+ support group that i for gay and bi-men to talk about commor emotions. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 920 20th Street. Ca 448-2437 for info.

Sacramento Leather Association, monthl meeting at the Wreck Room, 7 p.m. Firs Tuesday of each month. For info. call 863 3398.

WEDNESDAYS

LGSA - Sacramento City College Lesbia Gay Student Alliance meets at 5:30 in Rm B220.

THURSDAYS

Rainbow Real Estate Professionals meet on the first Thursday of each month at 11:3 a.m. at the Hungry Hunter, 450 Bercut Drive Sacramento. For information call 921-6642

Women's Coming Out Group meets from 6 7:30 at the Lambda Center, 1931 L Street Call 442-0185 for more information.
Fridays

Gay, Lesbian. Bisexual Student Union a American River College meets from 12 1:30 p.m. in Rm. 154.

Youth Group at Lambda Community Cente at 5:45 p.m. for gay, lesbian, and bi youth under age 21. Call Christopher at 442-018 for information.

SUNDAYS

Women of Color Support Group, every Sun day, 7:15 - 9 p.m. Lambda Center 1931 Street. Call 442-0185 for info.

Midtown Street Fair Celebration

Saturday, June 5, 1993 10am - 6pm
Capitol Ave from 18th Street to 28th Street

Doo-Dah Parade at 10 am

Crafts, Food, Games and Entertainment
Contact the Suttertown News at 448-9881 for Details

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RUMOR HAS IT

Do you believe that *the latest ISSUE* is beginning its fifth year of publication? Come help us celebrate our longevity with an afternoon party, beginning at 1:00, at **Faces** on May 23. And they said it wouldn't last...

The **March on Washington's** mass wedding, April 24, has provided Rumor Has It with enough love news to last all year! Among the Sacramento couples tying the knot were **Rev. Freda Smith** and her lover of 19 years, **Kathleen Meadows. SLCC** lesbians **Sharon** and **Linda** also exchanged vows, after 10 years together. At the opposite end of the spectrum were Central Valley newlyweds **Dennis** and **Chris**, who swore they had known each other at least 3 weeks. **Kelly** and **Melody** got hitched as well, while refuting rumors that it was a shotgun wedding. **John** and **Sonny Helm**, together a bizillion years, were also spotted at the wedding. Could it be that these long-termers exchanged vows?

Not getting married in Washington was Sacramento's **Alan LoFaso**, who reputedly spent the whole time in D.C. in bed. He was getting sick, alas, not lucky. He did stumble out for the march Sunday and was able to participate in the die-in -- with feeling.

Also not married, but still in love, are Sacramento success stories **Brad** and **Dan** -- celebrating three years together next month.

Brian Ashby

Rev. Freda and Kathleen.

Next month, June (of course), seems to be the gayest month of the year. Among the "I couldn't possibly live with myself if I missed it" events is the **CAP/PAC** dinner June 5. The chi-chi fundraiser features **Roberta "No Comment" Achtenberg** and **David "Yes, The President Loves Me" Mixner.** The evening's income benefits **CAP/PAC**, a political action committee supporting candidates who support gay/lesbian issues. It's a great cause, so put on your high heels and join us!

Earlier in the day (still June 5) is Sacramento's second annual **Midtown Fair and Doo Dah parade.** The parade is very strange, with a sort of Ma and Pa Kettle go to Mardi Gras feel. The crazy, campy feel of the occassion lends itself perfectly to the gay community's zanier element. So why not make this a very gay parade? If we all band together we can, like, take over. Yeah, I like it! To pre-register call the Suttertown News at 448-9881. (See the ad on page 11.)

June 6 (yep, the next day) is the **Sacramento AIDS Walk**, starting at the State Capitol. The walk, which has been less financially rewarding than hoped for in previous years, has the potential to be a big fundraiser. So why not get some pledges and walk? For pledge forms or more information contact the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation.**

Our very own **Mayor Joe Serna Jr.** proudly opened the

Mayor Joe Serna Jr.

1993 Coronation at Turn Verien Hall. The crowd went wild as Mayor Joe took the stage and

continued on page 23

Lesbians Age 40+
Therapy Group

Addressing Loneliness, Sexuality, Coming Out and Relationship Goals, safely among peers on:
Thursdays 5:30 p.m.

Sandra Howarth, M.S.W.
Associate C.S.W.
- ASW2054
Supervised by
Satsuki Ina, Ph.D.
License No. MFC23383

Family Study Center
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Sacramento, CA 95818

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Private Rooms $55 - $65
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invites you to join our
BUSHIDO-KARATE FAMILY
Fun, safe, martial arts instruction
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* Keep physically and mentally fit.
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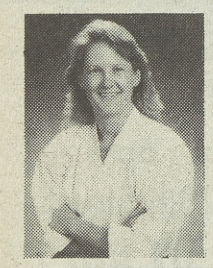

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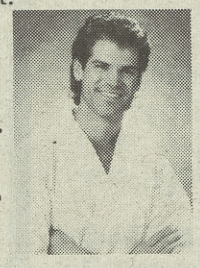
SENSEI ESTHER RITTER
5th Degree black belt Bushido,
1st degree black belt Iaido,
(Japanese Swords)

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR
LANE BRANSCOMBE
Black belt Bushido



Adult Classes Start May 17
CALL 444-5977 TO REGISTER
3212 Riverside Blvd., (Across from Vic's Ice Cream)

Real Coffee Flavor...
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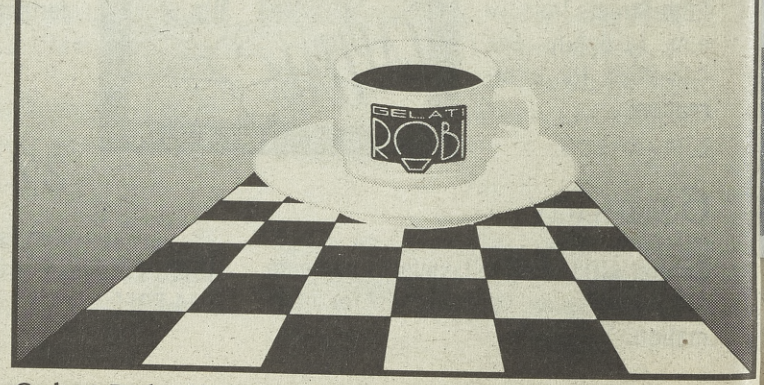
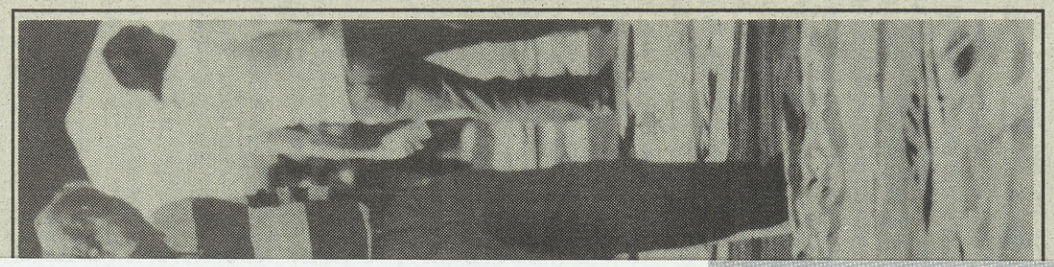


Gelati Robi 2317 J Street, Sacramento (916)442-7624
Fine Italian Gelato Desserts Espresso Drinks

Celebration & Beach Party!!!
A Benefit for the SACRAMENTO AIDS

Produced by AIDS Project Los Angeles, under a grant from the State Office of AIDS HIV Testing Outreach Project.



The Sacramento AIDS Foundation

The Sacramento AIDS Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against AIDS. We seek to prevent HIV infection and ensure quality care for those infected throughout inland Northern California.

We promote prevention of infection through public education, and we promote quality care by mobilizing the services of health care professionals, volunteers, and community organizations on behalf of everyone affected by the virus.

We provide assistance to persons who are HIV positive or have AIDS in the form of counseling, home attendant care, education, food, and medicine.

For more information about SAF, or to make a contribution, write or send a check to 920 20th Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call (916) 448-2437.

All net proceeds from the sale of the Local Music Showcase go directly to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation to provide direct services to clients.

Thanks to KRFD 99.9, Anheuser-Busch, Carson Hendricks from the AIDS Foundation, Pat Olguin at Selective Frequencies and the Sacramento Music community for their support to make this project a reality.

With your help, we will win the fight.

SACRAMENTO AIDS FOUNDATION

Be sure to join us at FACES on May 29th for a Local Music Showcase CD Celebration & Beach Party!!!

Budweiser Presents

99 UNDERGROUND KRFD FM 99 RADIO™

- *Jet Red*
- *Tattoed Love Dogs*
- *Buddy Hyatt*
- *Sedona*
- *5 Neat Guys*
- *The Broken*

Local Music Showcase

Volume 1, 1993

- *Pride in Peril*
- *Amos & Andy*
- *Dead in Spain*
- *Heaven's Thunder*
- *Beer Dawgs*
- *Michael Gregory Band*

A Benefit for the SACRAMENTO AIDS

of my friends have
even know anymore.
I've lost half my phone
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dn't mean anything.
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r? That it's got to happen
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with. And nobody I
know even wants to talk about it.

We want to talk about it.
Call us. Get tested.

the latest ISSUE 13

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- ASW2054
Supervised by
Satsuki Ina, Ph.D.
License No. MFC23383

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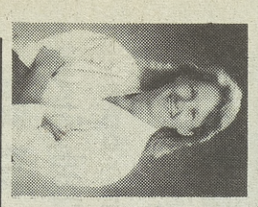

HEAD INSTRU
SENSEI EST
5th Degree black
1st degree black
(Japanese Sword

Adult Classes Start May 17
CALL 444-5977 TO REGISTER
3212 Riverside Blvd., (Across from Vic's Ice Cream)

Gelati Robi 2317 J Street, Sacramento (916)442-7624
Fine Italian Gelato
Desserts
Espresso Drinks
mid-may

Underground Radio KRFD 99.9

Underground Radio 99.9 is proud to bring you our first local music CD highlighting some of the bands we've supported over the past year. So many great bands were on our Local Music Showcase— it was hard to pick only twelve. Thank you to everyone who participated in the making of this CD.

And special thanks to all the bands who gave extra effort to make the show successful and this CD possible. In keeping with the spirit of Underground Radio, you can count on us to continue our full support of local music… and local charities.

Thanks for listening.

General Manager

Jet Red *Trouble*	***Pride in Peril*** *Bet*
Tattoed Love Dogs *Blue Highway*	***Amos & Andy*** *Dream Within a Dream*
Buddy Hyatt *Right Kind of Love*	***Dead in Spain*** *Unselfish Hands*
Sedona *Stone Cold Hearted*	***Heaven's Thunder*** *Without Your Love*
5 Neat Guys *What She's After*	***Beer Dawgs*** *B4*
The Broken *Fascination*	***Michael Gregory Band*** *Rear Fish*

Budweiser / Markstein Beverage

The Sacramento music scene is filled with a talented array of local bands. Often times the musicians don't receive the recognition they rightly deserve. For that reason, we are excited to be a part of KRFD's efforts to bring you the Local Music Showcase.

We are greatly encouraged that the proceeds from the sale of these CD's are going to help the efforts of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. On behalf of all the people at Budweiser and Markstein Beverage Co. we salute our hard working local musicians and the people who made this CD possible.

Thanks,

Butch McElwee
Vice President

Order Form

I would like to have the 1st Volume in 99.9 Underground Radio's Local Music Showcase Collection. Please send me:

_____ *CD's @ $9.99 ea.* $ _____

_____ *Tapes @ $7.99 ea.* $ _____

Subtotal $ _____

Add 7.75% CA Sales Tax $ _____

Add Shipping @ $2 ea. $ _____

Total $ _____

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ ☐ *Male* ☐ *Female*

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City _____ *State* ____ *Zip* ____

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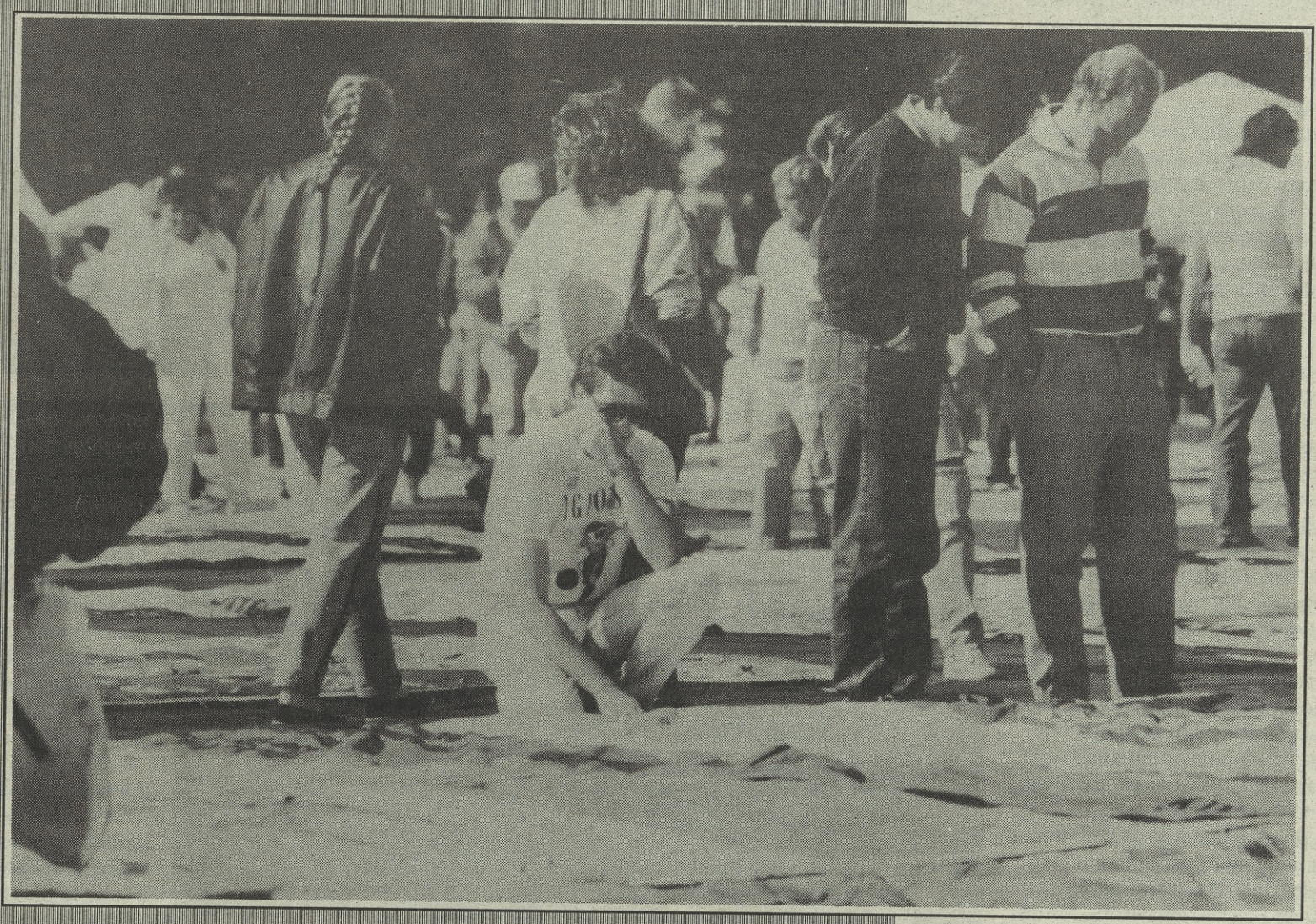
Please fill out this form and send with check or money order payable to:
KRFD-FM, *P.O. Box 340999, Sacramento, CA 95834.*

KRFD HAS IT

Butch McElwee
Vice President
KRFD-FM, P.O. Box 340999, Sacramento, CA 95834.

KNOW yourself

Why Not Me?



Produced by AIDS Project Los Angeles, under a grant from the State Office of AIDS HIV Testing Outreach Project.

KNOWLEDGE = POWER

FOR INFORMATION ON AIDS AND REFERRALS TO HIV ANTIBODY TESTING, CALL THE AIDS HOTLINE. PLEASE.

English Speaking:
1-800-922-AIDS *(Southern California)*
Spanish Speaking:
1-800-400-SIDA *(Southern California)*
English/Spanish Speaking:
1-800-367-AIDS *(Northern California)*

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

dhs

How many of my friends have died? I don't even know anymore. It seems like I've lost half my phone book. And when I tested negative, I felt like I had betrayed my friends, like I was better or smarter than them. Maybe that's why I didn't "play safely" that night—that way the test wouldn't mean anything.

So what am I trying to prove? That I belong? That it's got to happen someday, so why fight it? It's too much to deal with. And nobody I know even wants to talk about it.

We want to talk about it.
Call us. Get tested.

The March on Washington for Lesbian, &

story by **Stacy Selmants** photography by **Brian Ashby**

Despite heated controversy over the estimated number of participants, the March on Washington on April 25 served as a successful example of gay and lesbian visibility, strength and harmony. It was also a huge, city-wide, queer block party.

The U.S. Park Service's low estimate of 300,000 attendees was protested by the event's sponsors, who claimed that over a million people participated. D.C. officials, citing increased subway ridership and aerial estimates, put the number closer to 500,000 people.

At 5 p.m., when the lower crowd numbers were announced, March Co-Chair Billy Hileman called out from the rally podium, " This insult cannot be allowed to stand. Go home and tell the truth about the numbers."

Park Police, who are required by Congress to estimate crowd size at events held on D.C.'s Mall, defended their crowd estimates, saying that event organizers tend to overestimate the numbers, hoping that higher crowd totals will translate into greater political influence. However, Park Police officials concede that in past events, crowd size was estimated by using the SWAG method -- short for "scientific, wild-ass guess."

Despite the body-count controversy, there were still more gays and lesbians than most of the crowd had ever seen in one place.

For almost a week, in the hotels, shops, bars, dances, museums, the subway and especially in the streets, hundreds of thousands of gays, lesbians and bisexuals were given the freedom to shed their fears, and to be themselves.

People flooded Washington D.C. from the major cities, such as Manhattan and Los Angeles, but also from small cities and towns in Florida, Minnesota, North Dakota and Kansas.

Sacramento was represented by approximately 500 people, including members of the LIFE Lobby, River City Democratic Club (RCDC) and Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC).

But many people from these small towns and suburbs were still not brave enough to tell their full names to the press, only their stories.

"This is the first time I've done something like this, " said Dick, a closeted man from the suburbs of Virginia. "It's so exhilarating."

In an interview with his hometown paper, he declined to give his name, explaining, "I hate to do it, but I have one client who would drop me if he knew I was gay."

Another man from Virginia, Peter, was originally indecisive about attending the march, and was afraid of a potentially violent backlash, but changed his mind.

Proud lesbian/gay and bi activists march along with celebrities and people with of the larg

Sacramento women stop marching long enough to pose for in front of the White House.

Activists gather at the Capitol to sing for gay rights.

(No incidents of gay-related violence were reported during the weekend.)

" It came to me that I wasn't just going for myself," Peter said, " but for my friends who have died of AIDS."

The primary issues addressed during the march and in the accompanying events and demonstrations were: overturning the ban on gays and lesbians in the military; access to health care, increased funding for AIDS research; and universal civil rights for all gays and lesbians, including the abolishment of sodomy laws which still exist in many states.

We're On "Gay Time"

Few events began on time, and many ran later than expected. We didn't wear watches and didn't need to. Promptness was irrelevant, because there was a story going on wherever you were.

Starting the "gay time" trend, the mass gay wedding scheduled on Saturday started and ran late, and drew a crowd of about 5,000.

It was easy to find the IRS building; one had only to follow the streams of rainbow-wearing people, some of whom started crooning the classic oldie, "Goin' To the Chapel," in the echoing caverns of the subway.

Hundreds of couples -- many in matching tuxedos -- were married by the Reverend Troy Perry, one of the founders of the Metropolitan Church (MCC). Sacramento's own MCC minister, Freda Smith also spoke at the wedding, and offered a blessing. Prior to the ceremony, a number of other speakers affirmed their reasons for participating in gay weddings, demonstrating their commitment to their partners.

Two men, (identified to the crowd as Patrick and Bill) explained their reason for getting married, " We all have that need which touches a spiritual bond, that need to couple. We have to remember that no matter what happens to us individually, as a couple, nothing is ins mountable. This entity is bigger than t sum of its parts."

A particularly poignant speech was giv by Karen Thompson, the lover and prote tor of Sharon Kowalski, who was disabl by a car crash over a decade ago. Th recently won, on appeal, a case granti Thompson custodial care of Kowalski, ter an eight year battle with Kowalsk parents for custody -- a case which ceived nationwide attention.

"Don't leave yourself vulnerable Thompson said, " The first line of prote tion is to come out. The second line protection is to obtain durable power attorney. You never expect it to happen you or to your lover, but it can, so prot yourself."

Hundreds of people also participated the creation of sidewalk valentines w

Craig Dean and Patrick Gill at the w ding. The couple has a lawsuit with D for recognition of their relationship.

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& Bi Equal Rights and Liberation

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chalk. Hundreds of huge, day-glo hearts reading "Bob and Stan" and "Amy and Allison" were left as memoirs, surrounded the streets by the Internal Revenue Service building.

Hands Around the Capitol

In a protest version of "We Are the World," sponsored by various chapters of ACT UP, thousands of gays and lesbians lined up on Saturday against the red ribbon stretched around the Capitol, symbolizing the many people who have died of AIDS.

While uneasy constables stood by, some in riot gear, more layers of people surrounded the Capitol, chanting ACT UP slogans, "Act Up! Fight Back! Stop AIDS!" Despite the posters proclaiming that the event would begin "promptly, at noon," activists reportedly began circling at about 12:30, and continued to hover until the permit expired at 2 p.m.

This female impersonator was one of many who performed for the "Drag on the Mall" show.

The event was a peaceful venting of frustration, with no arrests or major disturbances, and culminated in a rally on the adjoining lawn. An estimated 7,000 people participated, but again crowd estimates vary, due to repeated movement of the crowd.

Happy Hour Lasts All Night

On Friday and Saturday nights, while many people attended various three digit ($100 plus) formal fundraisers sponsored by the various national political organizations, the bulk of the crowd hit the bars and the streets, especially in the Dupont Circle area. Some of them even kept their clothes on.

Several groups, including a group called the Radical Fairies, pranced naked around the fountain in Dupont Circle, much to the amusement of the crowd, who group-hummed strip tease grind music, as well as yodeling encouraging remarks such as "Work it, Girl!"

Nudity, on the whole, was at a minimum, and was a co-gendered experience, so no one seemed to mind, even the police, who realized they were outnumbered.

The bars were jammed, and it was a kind of tavern-bonanza, as cover and drink prices doubled, much to the vocal displeasure of many of the locals. On Friday night, the bars and the streets were less crowded, since thousands were kicking up their heels at the Hoe-Down '93 two-stepping party. But by Saturday night, the Circle was a combination music festival/block party/pride parade, as people began referring to the weekend as "Queerstock."

One bar, Tracks, sponsored a "72 Hour Party" and kept the bar open all weekend, until noon on Monday. Tracks, billed as the largest dance bar on the east coast, also featured an outdoor dance floor and sandy volleyball court, where patrons could work up a sweat.

Tracks was the site of the Wedding Reception, held after the mass wedding, and supplied an ample buffet and wedding cake for thousands, as well as a hot after-noon tea dance. (They were also especially gracious about waiving cover charges to the gay press, which may unfairly color our feelings in the "best bar" contest!)

New panels were added to the NAMES Quilt to remember those dead from AIDS.

We Talk About You... Still

One of the quieter components of the March was the unveiling of the NAMES Quilt on Saturday and Sunday mornings. More panels were added to the ever-expanding collection of quilt, remembering people who have died of AIDS.

After the ceremonial unfolding of the quilt's panels by monitors, thousands of people filed by to see the acres of quilt panels, and to read the thoughts of those who still loved the people who were gone.

" I don't know your names; I know your faces. I am ashamed for the lack of caring that may have been shown to you. I am grateful for the love you gave DC."

"Gay Jay. You were an inspiration to me. Did you ever know? -- John "

"My sons. May God hold you close as I used to. -- Mother."

" For those who cannot attend. I love you all."

" Why is God picking all of his most beautiful flowers?"

NAMES Project organizers allowed more panels to be sewn onto the quilt in DC, and also left panels blank to allow people to express their remembrances spontaneously. We added our thoughts to the panel about a special friend and business partner, who died two years ago:

"Tim Shaughnessy. We talk about you... still. Love Stacy and Suzie."

"Get Over It!"

On Sunday, after an early morning service that reportedly people actually rose early enough to attend, a pre-March rally was held by the Washington Monument, and featured an eclectic array of speakers and performers, including sexuality/humor writer JoAnne Loulan, Adult Children of Heterosexuals, a funk-influenced band and Women Who Clog Too Much.

Jesse Jackson gave a rousing speech asking for everyone to "Come together as brothers and sisters, to fight racism, sexism, homophobia and gender oppression."

He was followed later by Phil Donahue, who drew crowd cheers with his jabs at the fundamentalists and the military leaders, "Get Used To It!" Donahue also spoke of the growing heterosexual support for the march's ideals, "We stand proudly, and with one voice, we stand united!"

The March itself was, predictably, chaotic and free-form. Beginning at noon, it officially ended at 6:30, just about when the after-march rally on the grassy mall was concluding.

The March began with a contingent of self-identified elderly gays and lesbians, followed by a large group of people living with AIDS, then row after row of military-related groups.

The signs and costumes made a strong

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The mother of Allen Schindler, the soldier who was murdered in a gay bashing in Japan, spoke to the crowd at the rally saying, "Don't mess with my kids."

mid-m

MARCH

continued from page 15

statement, from the placard reading "Combat Wounded Queer," to the laughing, prancing officer wearing a formal dress uniform jacket, and no pants.

Coffins in the Air

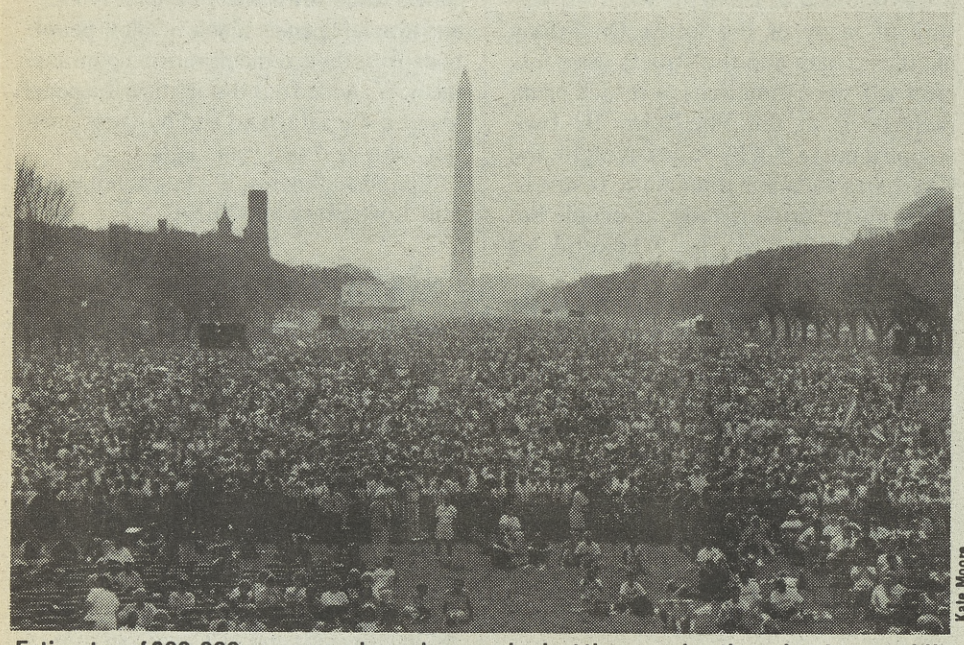
True to their rebellious natures, ACT UP didn't want to wait. Choreographed guerrillas, as always, ACT UP Philadelphia broke ranks and took an end run at the march, in the middle of the military procession.

Carrying dozens of black coffins over their heads, and chanting slogans, they spontaneously merged with the gay veterans groups. Once the march proctors caught on, they assisted in the uprising, and eased the way for hundreds of other sticker wearing ACT UP protestors from other cities to intersperse with the people wearing military ribbons.

One marshal just laughed, and confided, "It's just ACT UP. They weren't on the schedule. But we were expecting this. We just didn't know where and we didn't know when."

ACT UP also staged a five minute "die in," halting an already pokey pace, and thousands hushed, as everyone observed the die-in silence. The crowd began roaring, after the silence, as the chants rose, "What do We Want? A cure for AIDS! When Do Want it? Now!"

Impatience then became contagious, as half an hour later, with typical Southern California attitude, the huge (2,000 plus) Los Angeles contingent declared a coup, and also broke into the ranks of the scheduled marchers, with the rest of the California delegation tagging along behind, waving rainbow flags.



Kale Moore

Estimates of 300,000 seem very low when you look at the crowd gathered at 4 p.m. while thousands continued to march before reaching the mall.

This same group of sunshine-state guerrillas left the march completely a few blocks later, and created their own accelerated path down unclogged side streets to the mall and the rally festivities. (The midwestern contingents followed the rules, and brought up the rear, missing most of the party entirely.)

The rally on the mall was a visual spectacle, with waves of people stretching the length of the mall from the Washington Monument to the edge of the White House. Thousands of gays and lesbians of every age, color and size walked or sat in the sun without fear.

Brian Ashby

Lesbians ACT UP over the issues of women's health and women with AIDS.

The afternoon speakers and performers included a diverse group: Melissa Etheridge, Peter Paul and Mary, Holly Near, Cris Williamson, Romanovski and Phillips, Robin Tyler, Cybill Shepard, Harvey Fierstein, Teddy Kennedy, Ginny Arpuzzo, activist/playwright Larry Kramer, Martina Navatrilova, Ru Paul, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Torie Osborne, Colorado Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Congressman Henry Waxman from LA, and Nancy Pelosi, the Congresswoman from San Francisco, who was chosen to read President Clinton's prepared statement.

Where is Clinton?

Amid widespread crowd dissatisfaction -- including loud chants and some "boos" -- Pelosi tried to win over the crowd, who kept asking the question, "Why isn't he here?" (Clinton begged off any public appearances by saying he was already scheduled to appear in Boston.)

"Don't forget," she admonished, "Bill is the first president to send a message to the March, and his budget package contained full funding for Ryan White (federal AIDS funding)."

After listing a number of gay related issues Clinton supports, including allowing gays in the military, she read Clinton's statement which began with, " Welcome to Washington D.C. -- YOUR nation's capital, " and concluded, "I stand with you in a struggle for equality for ALL Americans."

Come Out, Come Out!

The NGLTF's Torie Osborne, in a long speech where she lost her voice in several spots, proclaimed that the March meant "America, we're coming home! So every one who isn't out, come out. We're here waiting for you. Your secrecy is killing you. It's killing us. It's killing the dream we call America."

Martina Navatrilova was also a crowd favorite, as she "tried to set the record straight, so to speak," that while she did not enjoy always being labelled the "lesbian tennis player" she loved the freedom and pride associated with being open about her sexuality.

"Labels are for filing, for clothing, not people. And for others to accept us, we must first accept ourselves."

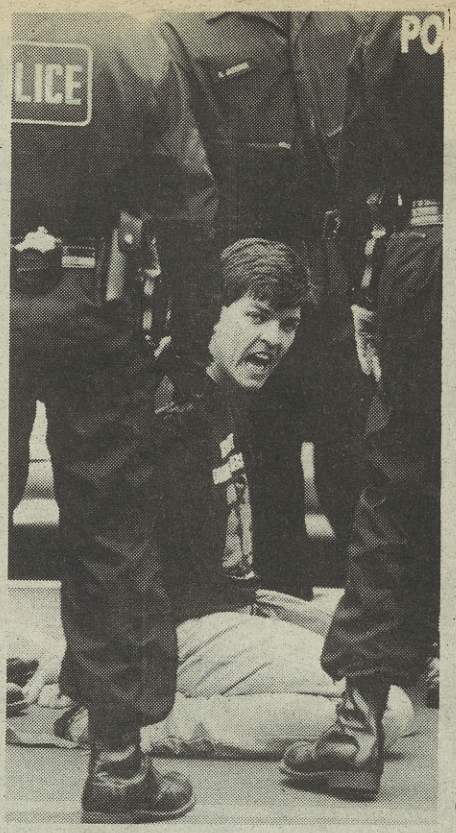
The rally concluded and the crowd dispersed, to dinners, parties, dances and more fundraisers, including the fabulous benefit for the Minority AIDS Council, "DIVAS" which showcased a number of singers/personalities, including Liz Torres, Mary Wilson of the Supremes, Valerie Simpson (of Ashford And Simpson) and the original Batwoman herself, Eartha Kitt, who growled out a sexy version of "I'm Still Here."

A Dawn of Protests

On Monday, lobby day resumed (also held the previous Thursday and Friday) as people were instructed how to lobby their elected officials on Capitol Hill.

Several demonstrations were also held, including a peaceful rally of about 200 people at the Pentagon, protesting the current ban on gays in the military.

The more in-your-face event was ACT UP's action for improved health care on Capitol Hill, which blocked traffic and resulted in 44 arrests, on misdemeanor charges. Protestors wrapped themselves in red ribbons and carried black coffins, inscribed with health statistics.



Brian Ashby

A demonstrator prepares to be arrested during a demonstration Monday at the Pentagon. The orderly and loud civil disobedience ended with 42 people being jailed.

A Different City

As the city began to empty out, the ratio of gays to straights began to sway. We were beginning to become a minority again. Gays and locals wearing suits had to share the subways, and gays in suits would still bond with any queer tourist wearing buttons. Late nights and blisters from walking were taking their toll, and all the bartenders were living on caffeine and borrowed time.

It Could Happen Here

The Holocaust Museum, a place remembering the Nazi killing of Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals, opened that week to the public.

It was a revelation, and many visitors we spoke to mentioned the strong parallels to the oppression gays and lesbians face, especially in the wake of statewide anti-gay iniatives held in Oregon and Colorado.

The displays were horrifying, and the museum visitors were a blending of schoolchildren, men wearing yarmulkes and gays wearing pink triangles. But the end of the tour was the most jarring, as visitors filed quietly into a large, Hall of Remembrance, full of lit candles for those who died in the Holocaust. The similarities became especially poignant when we remember our loved ones who have died from AIDS.

People left thoughts and mementos on the altar:

"I am a lesbian. It could have been me. It could happen again, and if it does, this time it could be me. Never again."

The image that we left with, one that we carried home on the long plane ride home to California, was a small triangle shaped button that read, simply, "In the United States, they first came for us in Colorado."

The Military is the Hot Topic in Washington D.C.

by **Michael Gorman**

The day before the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equal Rights and Liberation, Sgt. Jose M. Zuniga stood in his dress blues before opponents of the ban and announced that he is a gay man.

If the military brass had planned to demonstrate the lunacy of its current policy excluding gays and lesbians from the ranks, it could not have chosen a better poster boy than Sergeant Zuniga. Last month Zuniga received the distinction of being chosen "Soldier of the Year 1992" for the 6th Army, which covers the entire western United States.

Prior to this most recent award, Zuniga had earned five Army Commendation Medals, various awards for his work as an army journalist, and a Combat Badge for service as a medic on the front lines in the Persian Gulf War (a position for which he volunteered, leaving his safer job as news correspondent for the military press). All this in three and a half short years of service.

In addition, Zuniga had often been praised and decorated for boosting the morale of the troops through his writing, a clear affront to the Pentagon's contention that gays in the military pose a threat to good discipline and morale.

Zuniga fully expects proceedings to begin for his discharge. However, Allen Pemberton, a Naval enlisted man who came out in January in reaction to the gay bashing death of Allen Shindler (also Navy), told *the latest ISSUE* that Bob Hattoy from the White House had assured him that no such proceedings would begin in his case, and if any of his superiors said otherwise, he was asked to notify the White House.

Brian Ashby

Miriam Ben Shalom is stunned by the refusal to allow the gay/lesbian veterans to visit Arlington Cemetary.

Such was the ambiguity surrounding the military ban during the march weekend. March organizers chose not to be complacent about Clinton's promise to end the ban, and endorsed numerous military themed protests and rallies around the capital city, most of them organized by the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Veterans of America (LGBVA).

At the Lincoln Memorial Rally, Miriam Ben Shalom, the first person to be reinstated following her discharge for being a lesbian and the founder of the LGBVA, said of the Pentagon's intractability, "Often I have walked when I've come to Washington D.C. through these good gardens of stone that ring this city, and I have thought to myself that one in ten of those silent soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice belongs to us. We can honor them best now by walking tall, walking proud, doing the best that we know how and by refusing to engage in silence. If they will not let us march as a group to Arlington Cemetery, then go you by ones and twos, go you with respect and pick one person in those gardens of stone and stand there and say thank you."

Hundreds did just that. Among

continued on page 24

The Holocaust Memorial:

Rememberance of our Ancestors

by **Michael R. Gorman**

Each of us in our actions sets in motion ripples that travel beyond our ability to trace them. Sometimes they come back to us. It is at such times when the panorama of history becomes a personal and very real experience.

I had such a moment in Washington D.C. last week. It began longer ago.

As a child, I, in my isolation from my own culture, felt a special connection to the Jewish people who so often found themselves, like me, strangers in a strange land. That made an incident last year all the more painful. A poem of mine, "Invisible Triangles" was banned from a Jewish Holocaust Remembrance ceremony (Yom Hashoah) here in Sacramento after I had been invited to read.

The poem is about the past denial that gays and lesbians also died in the Nazi concentration camps. The rabbi found the poem offensive. He said I could not read it. The other artists and one local temple boycotted the ceremony. We held a reading out on the street. Some congratulated us. Many reviled us. Few joined us.

Soon afterwards my friend Leah Levine and I discussed creating a separate ceremony to honor the gays and lesbians who died in the Holocaust. I passed the idea on to Nancy Nystrom, the Sacramento coordinator of the March on Washington.

She took the idea to a planning meeting in Denver, and it took off. Last weekend I attended the resulting ceremony outside the new National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

The connections I felt there more than made up for the feelings that washed over me when my poem was rejected.

I listened to Paulette Goodman, a past national president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and a Holocaust survivor.

She welcomed me as other Jews had not and spoke of the commonality of discrimination and persecution. She said we must remember, and her "we" in-

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Washington AIDS Protests: a Personal Remembrance

by **Stan Carlsen**

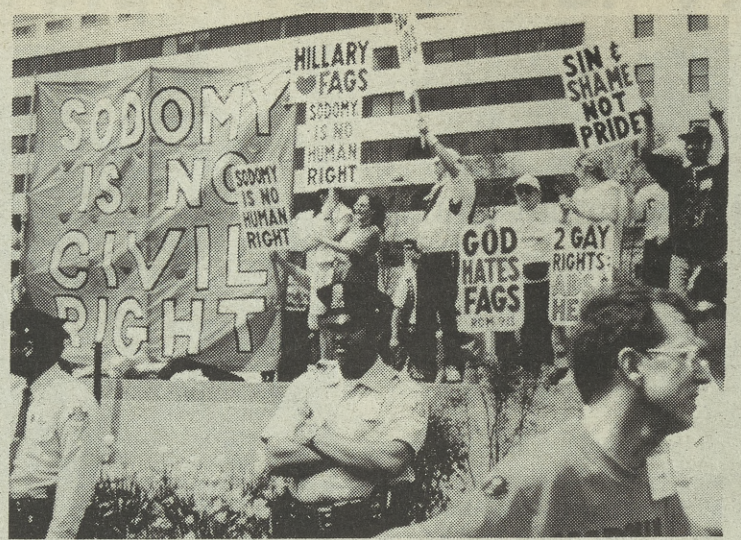
Of all the hundreds of various functions taking place during the March on Washington weekend, the events that meant the most to this reporter were those dealing with AIDS-- the epidemic that has forever changed the lives of my lover, Mark Baptista (who is living with AIDS) and myself.

By the tens of thousands, people living with AIDS and their loved ones came to protest or to just make a statement with their presence.

These people, with whom I felt a special bond, were putting their bodies on the line. They personified the anger and the hope that all in attendance feel toward the Powers-That-Be.

My involvement began with a rowdy demonstration, sponsored by ACT-UP, on Friday afternoon in front of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association building. A couple of thousand activists confronted a small squad of police. Demanding "an end to the profiteering and foot-dragging of drug companies responsible for AIDS treatments," the demonstrators surged toward the building. It struck me as similar to what is said to have taken place at the Stonewall Riots of 1969, the riots that gave birth to our movement.

On Saturday at noon, tens of thousands of AIDS activists surrounded the Capitol in a stirring display. Men and women of all colors, ages and states-of-origin stood, a red ribbon connecting each person to the next. "Turn your back on the Capitol," a hoarse-voiced spokesman yelled into a microphone, "because the Capitol has turned its back on you!"



Brian Ashby

Anti-March protesters damned us from the sidelines

By 12:55, the Capitol building had been surrounded three times over. The crowd cheered lustily and began to reassemble in front of the portico where Bill Clinton had been inaugurated just three months earlier. Speakers lined up to remind the crowd that none of the promises that the new president had made regarding AIDS had yet been kept.

"Bill the Welcher and Hillary the Welcher's Wife need to hear us and respond!" shouted playwright Larry Kramer, founder of ACT-UP.

Cornelius Boker, the policy director of the National Association of People With AIDS spoke movingly about African Americans and women with AIDS who are being ignored. "We have to love our brothers and sisters fiercely, just as we have been fiercely fighting the epidemic," he said.

Even as it began to rain that afternoon, my mood was energized by the day's events. As Mark and I visited the Lincoln Memorial, a group of fundamentalist Christians filed by and paused at the base of the steps just as we were descending.

Their signs: "God Hates Fags" and "AIDS is God's Gift", got my blood boiling. Mark, aware of my temper, tried to lead me away. But as a host of gay and lesbian tourists all around me began to chant, "Shame! Shame! Shame!" I grabbed one of the signs and was pushed to the ground by a Bible-waving demonstrator. Several hunky gay men picked me up and tried to calm me as a young lesbian walked up and spit on the sign I had tried to grab.

On the morning of the March, Mark was not up to walking the parade route, having been worn out by the weekend's activities. He decided to hang out at the Smithsonian Museums.

I took the time to visit the AIDS Quilt display, made up of 1600 new panels that had just been added to the Quilt that weekend. The highly personalized display brought home, with sobering reality, the human toll of AIDS.

One man, tears streaming down his face, stood silently. On his shirt, a statement was embossed in a circular design: "All I want is a cure and my friends back."

I turned away, thinking of the friends I have lost, knowing that they had no panels. And I thought how many more must there be?

That afternoon, I sat in the section reserved for members of the press, and sang along as Melissa Etheridge crooned "Take my love, Make it precious." The crowd repeated the words, as one mass voice, sending chills up my spine.

Mark was waiting for me on the steps of the Natural History Museum. To my surprise, he had stayed there much of the afternoon listening to the speeches and performers.

"I'm so glad I came."

We both felt the same. He, as a tourist and a person living with AIDS, knowing that he may never get another chance to travel here. I, as a reporter, my head filled with more information than I could handle. We had both been fulfilled and invigorated, and those feelings made the long trip worthwhile.

A Simple Matter of Prejudice

by **Elmer Aglubat**

The 1993 March on Washington theme boldly states "A simple Matter of Justice," but for people of color the slogan should instead read "A simple matter of prejudice."

For many people, especially for people of color, the March on Washington provided the opportunity to become visible, and to be counted.

At the People of Color Reception, Gwen Hall, an African-American woman who was at last March on Washington in '87 said she "Would like to know that my one step did not have to be three, that a (black, lesbian) woman can have equal access."

At the Asian Pacific Islander Networking conference held on Dupont Circle, the time was spent discussing how to operate on a grassroots working level.

The primary purpose of forming Asian organizations is to increase their visibility, to provide information to the Asian community, and to create a stronger community identity.

Later that day, I attended the People of Color Forum. One question included "What can we do to change the system? " We need to start a people of color coalition was one answer.

" We must push against the white system!" one audience member shouted.

John Wilkins, the organizer of the forum, spoke of putting aside our grievances and focusing on empowerment.

One obvious threat, that is killing a great deal of the people of color, is AIDS. In a very moving moment, those audience members who are living with AIDS stood up and let themselves be counted. These were brown, black, olive faces who may not see the next march.

The speakers asked, with all the different issues facing people of color can one really prioritize them? Should AIDS be at the forefront, or is racism more important? For those living with AIDS they have no choice but to prioritize. People of color too must choose what is most im-

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Men on Film...And Women Too!

The Ten Best Gay and Lesbian Movies on Video

by Chris Narloch

"La Cage Aux Folles" --The French pull down the top spot with the greatest gay comedy to reach the screen. This laugh-out-loud classic details the relationship between a female impersonator and his lover, forced to masquerade as husband and wife for the sake of the kids. Michael Serrault is perfection as a vain drag queen who confronts the ultimate test of his "feminie" wiles when his son-in-law marries into a straight-laced family.

"My Beautiful Laundrette" Daniel Day Lewis had his first hit as a gay punk in this wonderful interracial, same-sex love story. Set in modern England, the movie makes little fuss about the sexual relationship between Johnny and Omar, best friends since childhood. The two young men open a hip laundromat called "Powders," a venture which provides the test of their commitment to each other. It's also the setting for some of the sweetest love scenes in the history of gay cinema.

"Law of Desire" The best film to date by Spain's great gay director, Pedro Almodovar. The story features a hedonistic brother and sister (he's gay, she's a transsexual) who give hilarious new meaning to the phrase "dysfunctional family." The movie opens with an eye-popping scene from a gay porn flick and gets funnier and sexier as it goes along.

Fuzzy, Michael, Lisa and Willy exchange fond memories in Longtime Companion.

"Torch Song Trilogy" The film version of Harvey Fierstein's hit play about being gay, being Jewish and coming to terms with your mother. Fierstein is a riot as a drag queen who just wants to be loved in this comic tearjerker. Mathew Broderick is excellent as Fierstein's lover.

"Longtime Companion" The first film to humanize the tragedy of AIDS is a skillful drama that follows nine gay friends over nine years. Wisely, the movie steers clear of politics, instead focusing on the more personal implications of the epidemic. A superb cast and a dose of humor give balance to the heavy subject matter.

"Personal Best" The first major movie with explicit lesbian content is still the best. Set in the world of women runners, the story presents two complex heroines exploring their sexuality. Patrice Donnelly and Mariel Hemingway co-star as competitors and lovers. From the sensuality on the running field to the smoldering love scenes, the whole film celebrates the beauty of women.

"Henry & June" The first movie rated NC-17 gave viewers an eyeful in this true account of author Henry Miller and the two women who vied for his affection. Uma Thurman and Maria de Medeiros are knock-outs as Miller's wife and girlfriend, who discover each other on their quest for sexual freedom. A fascinating look at the joy and pain of sexual experimentation.

"Desert Hearts" A 1950's "divorce ranch" provides the set ting fro romance between two distinctly different women in this fine love story. Helen Shaver plays a repressed University professor, and Patricia Charbonneau is the adventurous younger woman who helps her over the pain of a divorce. A touching courtship builds to a scorching climactic love scene.

"By Design" A sweet, offbeat comedy worth seeing if only to catch Patty Duke Astin playing a lesbian (no kidding!) The two heroines live and work together -- they have their own fashion business -- and the relationship is hilarious proof that opposites attract.

"Fried Green Tomatoes" Your grandmother may have missed it, but anyone with eyes in their head knows that best friends Idgie and Ruth, owners of the Whistle Stop Cafe, are gay. Two shrewd actresses, Mary Stuart Masterson and Mary-Louise Parker, fill in the gaps left by the screen adaptation of Fannie Flagg's book. Until Hollywood has the guts to film gay stories as they are, we'll continue to use our imagination.

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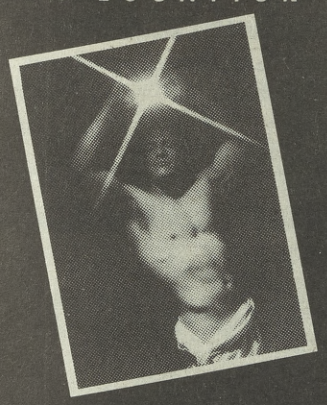

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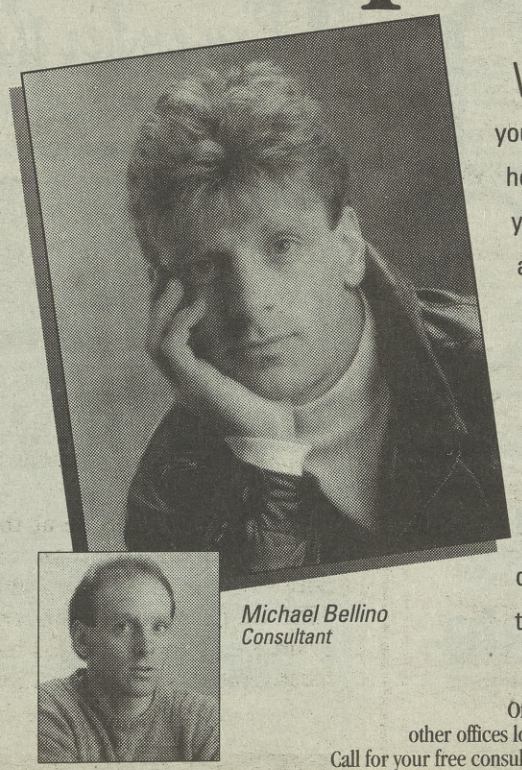

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Listening Between the Lines and the Cushions

by **Bill Peterson**

Judging by the performance given by Prince in April, with a throat infection, at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, you may just want to get in line now for his rumored Fall stadium tour.

If the man, accompanied by the New Power Generation, was able to put on so entertaining a show while sick, one can only imagine what he can do when he's feeling great!

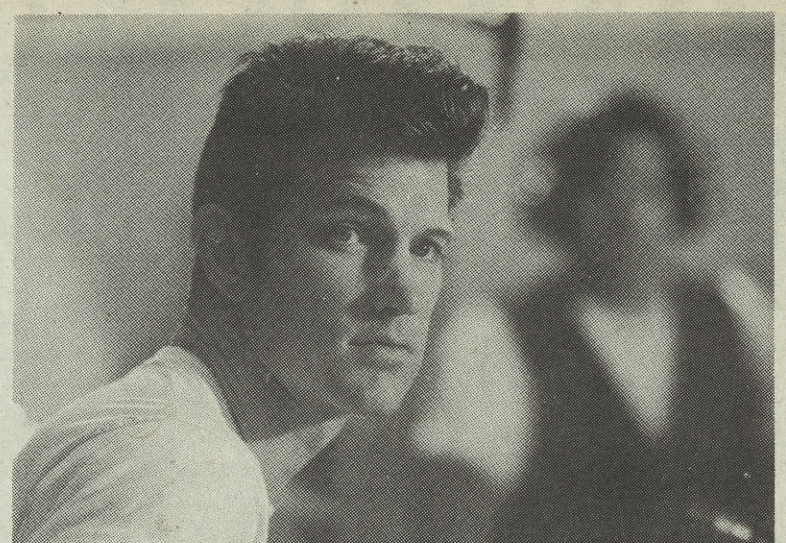
His two hour show was split into two parts, the first of which focused on his current album and was highlighted by the opening "My Name is Prince" and the relentlessly funk-ay jam of "The Max."

After an intermission, the band kicked in with the crowd pleasing "Let's Go Crazy" and "Kiss" as well as some non-album songs and some older tunes like "When You Were Mine." Seeing the man live makes it very apparent why his performances are legendary- you won't even feel stupid waving your arms to "Purple Rain!"

After the rousing concert, it took all my energy to collapse on the sofa. Luckily, I had **"San Francisco Days," the latest from Chris Isaak** on the stereo to help me rest.

While there are a few rockin' tunes, like the Creedence Clearwater Revival style "Beautiful Homes," Isaak still sticks mostly in a dreamy Vintage 1962 world, where boys pass the days driving their convertable Darts down to the diner.

As exemplified by the sublime falsetto and harmonies of "Can't Do A Thing (To Stop Me)," Isaak is perfectly capable of creating more of the sultry, understated mood music of the "Wicked Game" variety. Still, if you owned any of his other three albums, you'd know that. "San Francisco Days" is a pleasant way to escape to another decade, and stands as one of Isaaks strongest albums. ⚡⚡⚡



Chris Isaak and his new album, "San Francisco Days."

Fully rested, the next disc on is **George Michael's latest AIDS benefit disc "Five Live,"** which features two songs recorded at last year's Freddie Mercury tribute concert. "Somebody to Love" opens the disc in standard full blown Queen-style, with George sounding quite similar to Freddie.

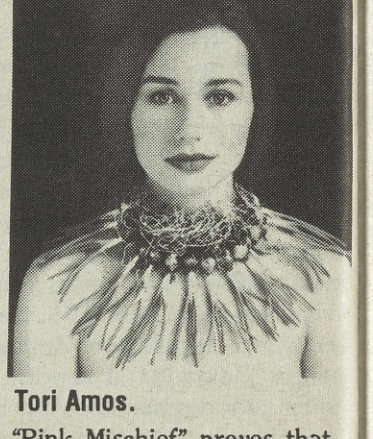
Lisa Stansfield pops up to duet on the ballad "These Are the Days of Our Lives," and then generous George contributes three live tracks from his 1991 tour-covers of Seal's "Killer," the Temptations' Papa Was aRollin' Stone" and the mini-album's highlght, the haunting "Calling You" (The Theme from "Baghdad Cafe"). Don't balk at the full CD price for half the music -the profits go to Mecury Phoenix Trust for Distribution to AIDS charities around the world! ⚡⚡⚡⚡

Speaking of mini-albums that are worth the ridiculously inflated price, while cleaning under sofa cushions, I came across **"Crucify" by Tori Amos.** With two songs from Amos' album and three cover version, this will prove to be one of the wisest eleven buck purchases ever! In her hushed vocal and piano style, Tori takes on songs by the Rolling Stones ("Angie"), Led Zeppelin ("Thank You") and Nirvana ("Smells Like Teen Spirit") which strip the songs down to the basic tune structure and lyric. In a word stunning. ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡

Finally, one more CD fell between the crushed velvet cushions and deserves a word or two -- **Jeannette Katt's "Pink Mischief."** Released last fall, this album has enough catchy tunes to land a great white. Katt's humor is evident throughout, as even the song title's imply-- "Jonny, Who's the Lucky Man?" and "Can I call You Daddy?" Being good examples.

On "Adam's Got an Attitude" Katt sings "Eve knew from the time that they began/ She was missing the one thing God gave her man/ She got so jealous, green with envy/ She made Adam wear Calvin Klein briefs."

On songs ranging from masturbation ("Girl Noise") to bondage ("Bound for Love"), the sturdy, spritely Bangles-style tunes have you singing along by the second verse.



Tori Amos.

"Pink Mischief" proves that you can find good stuff in The Beat's bargain bin- and fret not, Eve reclaims her self self esteem "She let her hair down/ Got undressed and/ Uncovered the child that God liked best!" ⚡⚡⚡⚡

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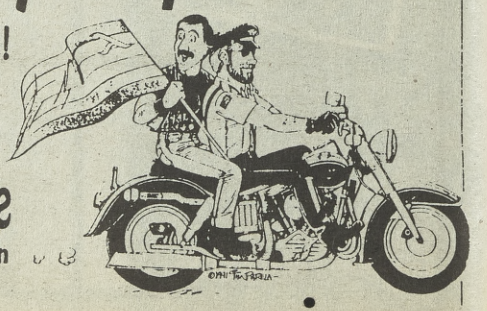


that GALLERY GUIDE!

An Artful Look into the Human Spirit

by D. Oldham

This month two very different exhibitions take an in depth look at the human spirit.

During the month of May, the Judith Weintraub Gallery on J Street will be exhibiting the "Spirit Houses," a sculpture by Lee Kavaljian, and around the corner at St. John's is the group exhibition of the "Religious Art Festival." These two shows bring art to a personal level, touching on spiritualism and human emotion.

Lee Kavaljian ressurects a Chinese tradition with his modern "Spirit Houses." Modeled after the houses and buildings sculpted by Chinese artisans during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.) the originals were used in burial customs.

Each "House" was modeled to represent the departed person's stature in life and buried with them to house their spirit in it's journey. Kavaljian's sculpture draws from this tradition, mixing a variety of architectural influences with his botanical background to create a modern piece of archeology.

Dr. Kavaljian is a professor at C.S.U.S., teaching biology and botony. He travels to Asia frequently and has a special interest in Asian art, particularly three dimensional works. His first first solo exhibition was held at the Judith Weintraub Gallery and he follows that success with his current exhibition which runs through June 5. The "Spirit Houses" fill the gallery, perched atop pedestals. These works cry for placement in a lush garden, rather than a stark gallery.

Within walking distance is another exhibition, St. John's Lutheran Church's "Religious Art Festival" held in a building next to the church on L Street.

This exhibition is an annual event, this year's exhibition was selected by juror Kitty Simpson, a museum curator and former instructor at Sierra College in Rocklin.

The festival has been gradually breaking away from the traditional iconography usually associated with religious art. Through an increase in professional participants the accepted work has taken on a broader spiritual view.

This competition draws artists from a wide variety of backgrounds and offers accepted artists cash awards as well as purchase awards.

Former purchase award win-

continued on page 22

Galleries to Go To:

Archival Framing: 1729 L Street (916) 444-9624 through May 28: "Gone Fishin'... Again" A group exhibition featuring the fine art of fishing. June 1 through June 30: New Work by Sheri Watson, Reception: Saturday June 12, 7-9 p.m.

Big Art: 1928 L Street (916) 446-2740 through June 10: Work by David White and Pauli Hakensen.

The Center for Contemporary Art: 1116 15th Street (916) 448-6269 through June 6: Sculpture by Jack Nielsen and Baochi Zhang

Lite Rail Gallery: 912 12th Street (916) 441-1013 through June 11: Work by Tahlia Vincent-Denny and Larry Killen.

St. John's Lutheran Church: 1701 L Street (916) 444-0874 through May 23; "Twenty-ninth Annual Religious Art Festival"

The Michael Himovitz Gallery: 1020 10th Street (916) 444-0874 through June 5: New Work by Clayton Pinkerton, Lyn Chriswell and others.

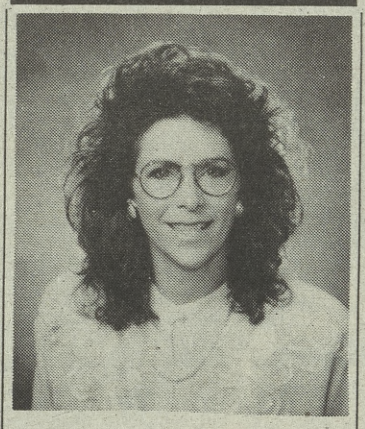
J. Maddux Parker Gallery: 1107 22nd Street (916) 448-6616 through June 7; 25 years of Ceramic Sculpture by Chris Unteresher.

The Judith Weintraub Gallery: 1723 J Street (916) 442-3360 through June 5; "Spirit Houses" by Lee Kavaljian.

The Dean Moniz Gallery: 1825 Q Street (916) 448-4039 through June 5; works by Patrick Siler. (Please note new gallery hours: Wed. thru Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Gallery W: 901 W Street (916) 444-5125 through June; Paintings by Rupert Lloydell.

These galleries participate in "Second Saturday" receptions. The next "Second Saturday" reception night is Saturday June 12.



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HOLOCAST

continued from page 17

cluded me.

I heard Dr. Michael Bernbaum explain the difficulty of gathering the stories of persecuted gays and lesbians because they alone among the victims of Hitler were made to feel ashamed after the "liberation." They alone were forced back into the closet.

Bernbaum admonished us to remember those who died and revere them as our ancestors, to tell their stories. He told of Wilhelm Arondeus, a Dutch gay man who went to the camps with his lover. When the SS began to beat his lover in front of him, he shouted, "Let the world know that the homosexual is not a coward!" He fell upon his lover's bleeding body in an attempt to take the blows himself. They shot him three times through the head."

As we lit candles and raised them to the north, south, east and west, I wept for Wilhelm Arondeus. I felt proud of my gay ancestor. I knelt and touched the earth for strength, and I vowed under the stars, "I will not forget you, Wilhelm Arondeus. I will remember your courage, and I will tell your story." In that moment the past and the present joined and I felt him there with me. I felt his contentment that he at last would be remembered and revered, he and his unnamed lover who did not die alone.

I will not forget the emotion in the eyes of others who were there that day.

We are indeed a loving and noble people. May we continue to send out our ripples proudly, courageously. One way or another, they will come back to us, forever.

Brian Ashby

People gather to remember at the opening of the Holocast museum.

GALLERY

continued from page 21

ner, local favorite Margaret Maye, is an example of the Church's progressive attitude towards religious art. Her depiction of two soldiers in a pieta-type pose is now a part of the Church's permanent collection.

The draw back to this exhibition is in the display of the chosen artwork. Each year the exhibition is installed in a multi-purpose type room, poorly lit with no attention to detail. The show has the look of an exhibition in storage rather than one on display, making the transition from piece to piece a difficult one.

This exhibition is a large undertaking, in its twenty-ninth year it has grown to become a favorite among local artists - who spend an afternoon with St. John's and experience the spiritual side of art.

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RUMOR

continued from page 12

welcomed the ever so glamorous attendees. The event was a historic one - the first mayor to open Coronation. Well, since the realm is larger than 7 European nations I think it is about time!

Steve Ermis was crowned the new emperor (gladly putting away the pumps and pancake make-up he used for Stacey) and Empress is **Evette.**

Great news from **the latest ISSUE family!** Writer **Samir Desai** has just learned that **Alysson Publications** will be publishing his novel, "The Eye Behind My Eyes." And **Brian Ashby,** photographer extraordinaire, is having several photographs marketed nationally on greeting cards by **SoHo Press.**

A new CD has just been released that you must add to your collection. Sponsored by **Budweiser** and radio station **KRFD 99.9,** the CD features individual cuts from twelve local bands. $5 will be donated to the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation** with every sale, so buy, buy, buy! Look for your order form in this issue of the paper.

During their last fundraising drive, that fabulous Terry Sidie, owner of **Faces,** offered to match any donation to **Lambda Letters** of $100 to $500. While it looked like nobody would take him up on the offer, an anonymous donor finally came through, relieving Terry of 500 big ones. Now, the **Lambda Letters Project** is a little less desperate for cash, but is in great need of a volunteer layout person. Interested? Call them at 965-6851.

And speaking of generous, the **Sacramento Leather Association** recently donated $1,390 to four organizations -- **Hope House, Cares, PSSN, and Weave.** What a great community we have!

Don't summertime and movies just seem to go together? **Tower Theater** is showing gay theme movies at midnight (and at some Sunday matinees) through August. The first film, **"Daddy and the Muscle Academy,"** is showing now. Also, the organizers of the **Second Annual Gay Film Festival** at the **Crest** are seeking volunteers. For more information call the latest ISSUE.

On the break-up front, **Cliff** and **Jeff** watchers report the following. Jeff, feeling guilty about his home-wrecking affair, was all set to rescind custody of the beloved **Scruffy** (the couple's ancient mutt) when he happened upon Clifton's personal journals, while packing his bags. Seems the notebooks outlined a series of sordid affairs not previously disclosed. Infuriated, Jeff fled the house with Scruffy in tow.

And don't forget, Sacramento's biggest gay event of the year, the **Lambda Freedom Fair** is June 19 in McKinley Park. You know, I spent several years thinking this event was dedicated to the right to perform a bizarre, Brazilian dance before I realized it was Lambda not Lambada Freedom Fair. Now that I know it's a gay event I definitely plan to attend. See you there!

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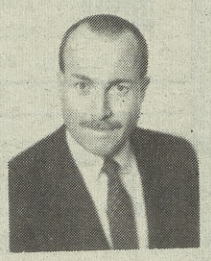
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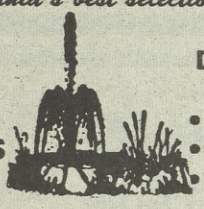

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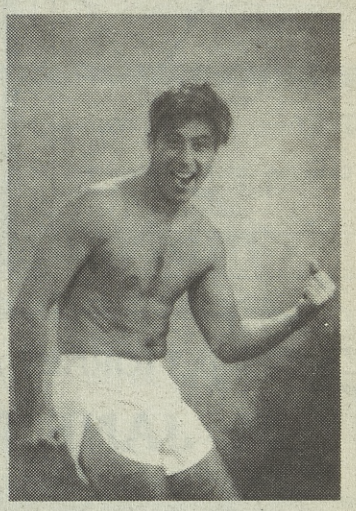
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MILITARY

continued from page 15

them was Retired Lt. Colonel Cliff Anchor, the former lover of Leonard Matlovich, the man who first successfully sued to change his dishonorable discharge to honorable, thus ending the automatic dishonorable discharge for gay and lesbian soldiers.

Anchor recalled comforting a young man whose lover had died far away from him. He used the words that he now uses in memorializing Matlovich: "When you love someone, you become a part of them and they become a part of you. It is only the body that dies."

Later in the day Saturday, a crowd gathered at the other end of Washington D.C. at the congressional cemetery to honor Leonard Matlovich, Harvey Milk, and poet Audre Lourd at Matlovich's grave. The ceremony ran into no difficulties since the cemetery is not in the jurisdiction of the Pentagon.

Roberta Achtenburg spoke at the memorial beside Leonard's headstone which between pink triangles of marble reads, "When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one." The founder of the Gay Scouts also spoke, as did Aaron Fricke who became famous when he sued to take his boyfriend to the Senior Prom. The plans for a memorial to Harvey Milk were unveiled. In a lighter moment, someone surreptitiously draped lingerie over the nearby grave of J. Edgar Hoover.

Another difficult moment for the veterans groups occurred at 6pm on Saturday at a planned visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A group met on a grassy knoll near the memorial. An honor guard presented colors, and then Miriam Ben Shalom led them to the memorial. When they were halfway down the black wall, police intercepted them to escort them out.

Ben Shalom confronted the officers with reference to their permit and to the constitutional right to free speech and freedom of association. The police forcibly escorted them from the monument, claiming that the permit covered only the grassy knoll and did not allow them access to the memorial. The group returned to the grass where various veterans gave testimony of their experiences in the military. The police hovered nearby.

The final major military demonstration went smoother than the others. On Monday morning after the March, a crowd of several hundred gathered by a stage on the lawn outside the Pentagon itself. Among the speakers was Crae Pridgen, the man who was beaten in North Carolina by three Marines who shouted, "Clinton will pay!"

The Marines were subsequently acquitted, but Crae has filed a civil suit which he hopes will bring some measure of justice. speaking of the ban, he told *the latest ISSUE*, "These Marines are still being allowed to serve their country, yet we can't have gay soldiers who serve our country well." His mother Marie also spoke, saying her acceptance of her son's sexuality has made her a surrogate mom to many. "I always wanted lots of kids. I didn't quite count on a million."

Kay Dire, aide to Congressman Gerry Studds, told the crowd that the Pentagon knows the foolishness of its own policy. She told how the brass had lied repeatedly to the congressman about an internal report that concluded, "Sexual orientation is unrelated to job performance in the same way as is left or right handedness." The military denied the report existed until Studds received a copy from a source within the Pentagon.

Dire also told of a memo by Navy Admiral Joseph Donnell, Commander of the Navy Surface Atlantic Fleet who wished to seek out lesbians for discharge. The memo told his subordinates how to recognize potential lesbians: "Lesbians are hardworking, career oriented, willing to put in long hours on the job, and among the command's top professionals." The crowd broke into chants of "Shame! Shame!"

80-something veteran Franklin Burke stood in his uniform from the 1940's and spoke of the pain of living in the closet. "I was afraid." He wept as he spoke of his pride in being able to march past the White House as an out gay man.

Also speaking at the Pentagon rally was Dorothy Hajgys, mother of Allen Shindler who was murdered in a military gay bashing overseas. She and Allen's lover Jim Jennings (also a veteran) stood together as she recounted a litany of false accusations and coverups from the military brass.

At one point, according to Hajgys, the Navy leaked the suggestion that Allen and his killer were lovers, and that the bashing was a lover's quarrel. She said they also tried to claim his facial injuries came from falling against a sink. "No one can hit their head on a sink and have their whole head caved in. Allen's eyes were even with his ears. There was no way of identifying the body except by his tattoos. I am tired of the lies. There is no evidence that because of homosexuals in the military anyone has died. But because of two straight men, my son is dead. All I want is justice."

During Hajgys's speech a soldier in dress blues on the Pentagon steps pointed at the rally and laughed. An enraged man from the crowd shouted, "It's not fucking funny." Others began to move toward the people watching from the steps. The MC quickly called for a moment of silence, thus quieting a potentially explosive situation.

Perhaps the weekend of demonstrations against the military ban and the tributes to those who have stood up to it was best summed up by Matlovich's lover Cliff Anchor. "Coming out: it takes a lot of guts. I see these young kids come out when they're in the military: if you want to see courage, that takes real courage."

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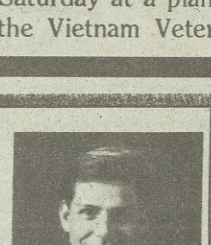

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OFF THE EDGE

Seeing Washington D.C. with Buffy St. Tropez

by **Stacy Selmants**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Reports are just in, in these lagging last days after the March on Washington, that the folks from our own River City have behaved themselves and no Sacramentans have had to give D.C. police the previously agreed-upon universal alias, "Buffy St. Marie."

It's not that SOME of us haven't misbehaved, but the striking combination of superficial courtesy and the sheer, ridiculous ratios ("Let's see, there's one cop for every 789 of us...") is keeping us all out of the pokey. WE, of course, have been above reproach, being Credentialled Journalists. And during the last 4 days of Official Reporting, we have met interesting people from all over the country. But we cannot always condone the conduct of our newfound playmates, especially the tall, effervescent, ambisexual, Buffy St. Tropez. We do not know Buffy's gender, nor his/her true name. He/she is from Annadale, Virginia -- Buffy St. Tropez was Annandale's agreed-upon group alias -- and she/he has a mean drop-kick and is wearing rather scary spike heels, so we just don't debate the issue.

We discovered Buffy on Saturday at Friends, in Dupont Circle, over a batch of happy hour (Okay, it was noon. But a very HAPPY noon.) Skip N' Go Nakeds -- a particularly lethal urine-colored drink that is popular with both college freshmen and firemen.

Buffy was lurking by the front bar, waving away imaginary insects flying in front of his/her mantilla veil. (The swiss polka dot pattern was chafing and beginning to cause hallucinations.) She/he was also rolling his/her eyes in response to the stories of a local hustler named Don, an excessively blow-dried brunette who reeked of tall tales and spoiled promises. Don bragged about his several houses, his White Rabbit-ish drug experiences ("one pill makes you larger, and one pill makes you small,") and any minute would begin a chat about his length and width. It was apparent that Buffy needed rescue.

"Pez, anyone?" we said in unison, as I waved a candy-bearing, plastic replica of Miss Piggy in Buffy's direction.

"What flavor?" Buffy growled, with a quart or so of attitude, and our instant friendship was born.

The rest of the weekend, we have two objectives: (1) To cover the story, since we are Credentialled Journalists (2) To maintain the level, in energy and attitude, if not in level of excess, of our new tour guide and muse -- the fabulous, the original, the ambiguous -- Buffy St. Tropez.

Travels with an Ambisexual

One of the nagging questions of the weekend is, of course, the key to Ms./Mr. St. Tropez' sexual identity. This IS a weekend celebrating "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Liberation." We are PRETTY sure that Buffy fits in there somewhere. But when one has ATTITUDE, darling, anatomical honesty becomes secondary. Our time with Buffy becomes positively "Crying Game"-ish. However, Buffy is flexible; he/she attracts dates at men's bars, women's bars and mixed bars. (When one has dynamite cheekbones and wet, "come-hither" lips, the world will come a-calling.) The weekend becomes a smorgasbord of confusing flirtations.

Radical Faeries Run Amok

It is Saturday night, 11 p.m. At this point, the only way you can get into a Dupont Circle tavern is to have someone feign a heart attack while you slip in a side door. Thus, the party is becoming an al fresco, campfire event, in the surrounding streets, and especially in the area next to the large, gaudy fountain.

Our press passes, the ever-popular Miss Piggy Pez Dispenser, (and of course, Buffy's stunning profile) have acted as opening devices to meet the thousands of strangers in our proximity. We feel as if we are spiritually one with everyone in the area, and there is the ambiance that we all came here on the same chartered bus, with a wet bar in the back. It's so...comfy, somehow, surrounded by all these friendly strangers.

Buffy rises to the occasion, and joins the crazy, disjointed conga line started by the Radical Fairies, a wild semi-paganistic group of queers, who lead the dance surrounding the Circle. Buffy even begins choreographing it, as it snakes from corner to corner, and more people shed more clothing. (Actually, few people actually disrobe, but as the night grows chilly, interesting things happen to breasts and other body parts.)

As the dance becomes more disjointed, and we partake of some homemade mead that a queen in Renaissance drag (including a ruby crown) makes us drink (peer pressure can be a terrible thing) we see Buffy being spirited away under the trees by a group of big butch things in stiff boots.

We intersect with Brian, our intrepid photo-partner, who tells a disjointed, vegetarian-in-alien-country tale of being stood up for a dinner date, and out of desperation, being forced to eat cold Chicken McNuggets next to a drugged-out local drag queen wearing fishnet stockings and carrying a boom-box blaring Danny Kaye show-tunes (Hans Christian Andersen, with a beat.) We feel at this point that perhaps our experiences MAY be more mainstream than we thought.

We also discover that Buffy's pet preference is for dates who wear...vinyl. "It just does it for me. Those leather folks are just too extreme for me, so I prefer the quiet "wanna-be" feeling that people wearing vinyl give off. The theme here is diversity, and remember, I'm a quiet thing, from the suburbs."

We lose Buffy, in his/her pursuit of a dimpled, naughahyde, after-hour date but reconnect during the March.

continued on page 26

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OFF THE EDGE

continued from page 25

"Who's in Charge?"

The next day, during the March festivities, we just roll through the experience and fill our notebooks and film canisters with memories of a weekend surrounded by queers. We are on-site for the unplanned ACT-UP and California Coups, where groups create their own march. We are there at the rally when all the speakers ask where our new Commander In Chief is. And then the almost-final parties begin, and of course, we link up again with a very tired Buffy St. Tropez, who is living on caffeine and eyeshadow, and has skid marks on his/her neck.

The night progresses, people's identities become blurred and we are still taking notes. We hit the tail-end of Tracks' 72 Hour Party at 4 a.m. and finally say goodbye to Buffy, who suddenly confides that he/she has to be at the Pentagon at 9 a.m.

"It's been a fun dream world, ladies. But tomorrow I've got to go back to work at the Pentagon. It's been great being in disguise all weekend. But you see," Buffy said, with an ironic twinkle, "I'm one of the guys with his hand on the guy who has his hand on the button. Doesn't THAT scare you?"

It is two days later, and we are waiting for our flight home. And we think about Buffy, flamboyant but determined, trying to work out a settlement to evacuate all the queens out of Bosnia. If anyone can do it, Buffy can. It's all just ATTITUDE.

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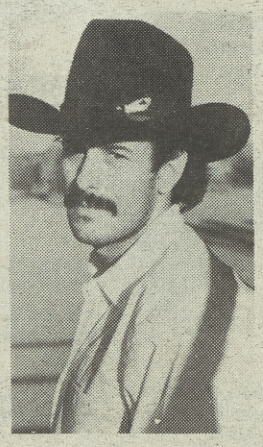

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